

FAITH @Home

www.waterfordlismore.ie

27 MARCH 2022 | VOL. II ISSUE 17

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram!



Subscribe to us on YouTube



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: LAETARE SUNDAY

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Joshua 5:9-12

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 33(34):2-7

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel:

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

...we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.



Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Check out [this video](#) of the Gospel for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear the very familiar story of the Prodigal Son. It's good to look at stories like this with fresh eyes, watching out for details we may have missed. Today we invite you to focus on the father's actions.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Can you imagine how the father's heart must have broken when his son asked for his inheritance early? Have I ever been ungrateful?
- Notice how the father saw his son from a distance - he never stopped loving or watching for his son's return. He never gave up hope. Am I conscious of just how much God the Father loves me and is ready to forgive me?

Talk

In this week's Gospel, we hear about the parable of the Prodigal Son. Sometimes it's called the Lost Son or even the Merciful Father.

- Do you know what prodigal means? It means wasteful. Am I wasteful with anything at home? Do I look after my toys and belongings properly or am I careless with them?
- Think of 5 nice things someone has done for you this week - did you show your gratitude for them? It's never too late!
- The eldest brother in the parable was very jealous of his younger brother and couldn't rejoice when he came home. Are we ever jealous of someone in my family, thinking they get more than me? How do we act when we're jealous? What kind of things do we say?
- How does Jesus want us to act instead?

Family Challenge!

Make a really special effort this week to be grateful: have an attitude of gratitude! Be conscious of all the small (and big!) things your family do for you and make sure to say thanks! If you're tempted to complain or feel jealous, think of 3 things to be grateful for instead!

Jesus teaches us in this parable that God is always waiting to forgive us – we just need to turn back to Him! If you've made your first confession, make sure to go to Confession during Lent. If you haven't made your first confession, you can still tell God in your heart that you're sorry and try not to sin again!

Song of the Week!

THE PRODIGAL SON SONG



#lostisfound
#welcomehome

OUR REASON TO REJOICE

We call the fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday, because it's a day to rejoice! That might seem a little odd in the middle of the penitential season of Lent. What do we have to rejoice about? Giving up chocolate doesn't fill most people with joy! Today's Gospel teaches us exactly what our cause for rejoicing is: God's love and mercy! No matter what we do, or how far we turn from God, He is always waiting for us just to take one step back to Him, into His arms open wide! This is our God! This is our reason to rejoice! Put yourself in the shoes of the Prodigal Son for a moment – in the depths of misery, shame and worthlessness; he really couldn't sink any lower. All he wanted and hoped for was to be taken back as a servant, but he got so much more than he could have dreamed of! His father never stopped loving him, never stopped watching and waiting for him, embraced him in his misery and filth and stench, welcomed him back into the heart of the family and called a celebration to welcome him home. And for the record, his love for the eldest son was always unconditional too, even when he refused to welcome his brother back, or didn't recognise the goodness in his father's heart all along. Let's rejoice in God's love for us today!

Jesus never wanted his parables to stay as stories, but he wanted us to find God and ourselves in them: Have I ever felt like the Prodigal Son? have I ever felt like I have disappointed someone? Have I ever turned away from God? Have I ever needed to ask for forgiveness? are there some specific areas of my life where I need God's forgiveness? Can I go to confession this week?

VIDEO: The Parable of the Lost Son Bible Animation

TUNE: You Invite Me In - Meredith Andrews

RESOURCE: Arms Open Wide



Family Prayer

*Lord, let us turn back with
all our hearts to you this
Lent, confident that You
await us with a loving
embrace. Amen*

EVENTS

Medjugorje Night at Glencomeragh House: Thursday April 7th beginning with Rosary at 8pm, followed by Mass and Adoration.

One-Day Healing and Renewal Retreat for Married Couples of All Ages: Sun 10th April, 10am - 4pm, Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House. €75 per couple including three course dinner, teas and coffees. Booking essential. For more info: (052) 6133181 or info@holymission.ie

Silent Retreat preached by: Fr. Kilian Byrne, Foyer of Charity at Glencomeragh House, April 18-24, Cost €380 full board. Contact Helen 086 1678027/ hellywilliams@gmail.com

Arise Family Conference: A Catholic family conference will be held in Tramore from 17th to 22nd April. Booking essential. More details at www.arisefamilyconference.ie

THE FRIENDSHIP AND MERCY OF GOD

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke and invites us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behaviour of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honour the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honours him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus.

Adapted from *Loyola Press - Sunday Connection*



CHECK IT OUT: ARISE FAMILY HOLIDAY CONFERENCE

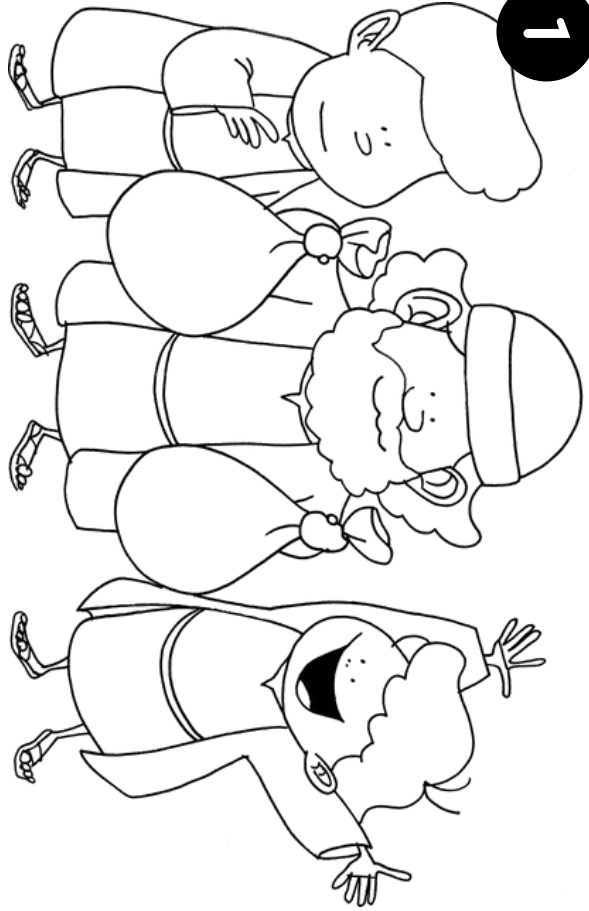
Join with other families to celebrate the joy of Easter in the beautiful Tramore, Co. Waterford. Starting on Easter Sunday evening and going through to Friday 22nd, there will be an extensive programme of talks, workshops, seminars, social events and activities for all the family. There will be Holy Mass each day. Book via the Arise website: www.arisefamilyconference.ie and find a list of local accommodation



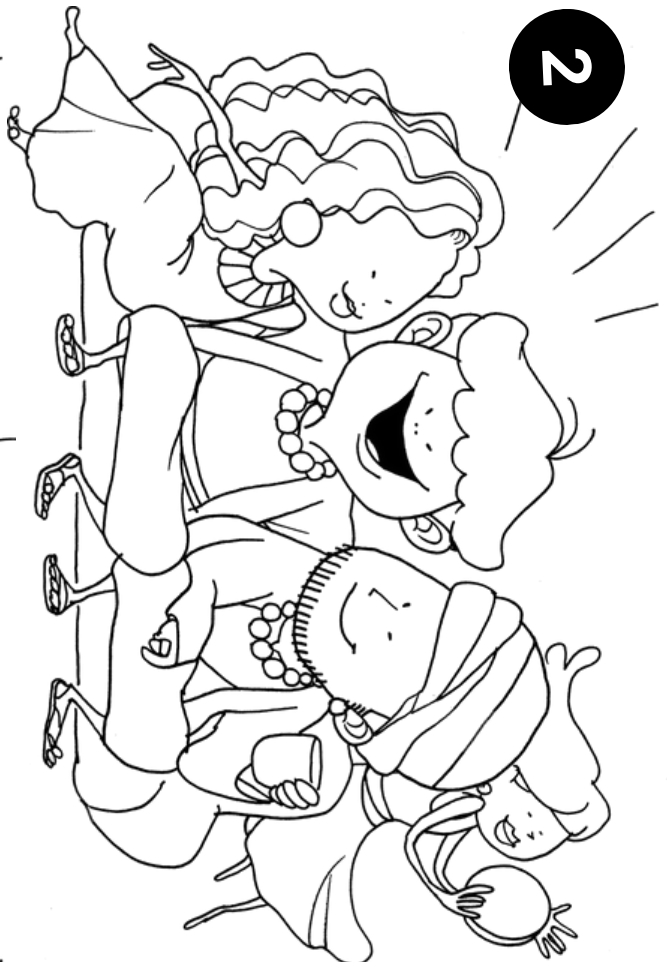
Can you retell the story of the Prodigal Son?

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

1



2



3



4





Arms Open Wide!

...we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.

CHECK OUT WHAT CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ABOUT THE PRODIGAL SON CCC 1439

JESUS WAS ALL ABOUT FORGIVENESS – CAN YOU NAME SOME STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT BACK THAT STATEMENT UP?

77

THE PRODIGAL SON

READ [LUKE 15:1-11-32](#) OR WATCH AN ANIMATED VERSION [HERE](#)

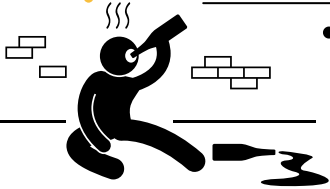
(The Parable of the Lost Son Bible Animation (Luke 15:11-32))

IT CAN BE A FAMILIAR STORY, AND FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT, RIGHT? LET'S LOOK CLOSER AT SOME DETAILS...



- Why was it so offensive for the younger son to ask for his inheritance?

- Why was it particularly shameful for the son to end up working with pigs?



- In today's culture, what kind of behaviour would you expect the younger son to be involved in?



- What thoughts might have made it difficult for the son to return home and ask forgiveness?

- How do you think the father saw him when he was still a long way off?



- What was the son's life like when he cut himself off from his father?

- What was his life like when he repented?



- What details do you notice about the father in the passage? What do they teach us about the father's heart, do you think?



ARMS OPEN WIDE

LUKE 15:1-11-32

- What do you think Jesus wants to teach us about His Father's heart?



Get the word out!

Imagine you are the prodigal son, or the father, or the eldest son in this story. How would you share the news on either Instagram, Snapchat or TikTok?



Create some hashtags appropriate to the story. Example: #lostisfound



Now Read Luke 15:1-11-32



We call the fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday, because it's a day to rejoice! That might seem a little odd in the middle of the penitential season of Lent. What do we have to rejoice about? Giving up chocolate doesn't fill most people with joy! Today's Gospel teaches us exactly what our cause for rejoicing is: God's love and mercy! No matter what we do, or how far we turn from God, He is always waiting for us just to take one step back to Him, into His arms open wide! This is our God! This is our reason to rejoice! Put yourself in the shoes of the Prodigal Son for a moment - in the depths of misery, shame and worthlessness: he really couldn't sink any lower. All he wanted and hoped for was to be taken back as a servant, but he got so much more than he could have dreamed of! His father never stopped loving him, never stopped watching and waiting for him, embraced him in his misery and filth and stench, welcomed him back into the heart of the family and called a celebration to welcome him home. And for the record, his love for the eldest son was always unconditional too, even when he refused to welcome his brother back, or didn't recognise the goodness in his father's heart all along. Let's rejoice in God's love for us today!



MISSION!

JESUS NEVER WANTED HIS PARABLES TO STAY AS STORIES, BUT HE WANTED US TO FIND GOD AND OURSELVES IN THEM: HAVE I EVER FELT LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON? HAVE I EVER FELT LIKE I HAVE DISAPPOINTED SOMEONE? HAVE I EVER TURNED AWAY FROM GOD? HAVE I EVER NEEDED TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS? ARE THERE SOME SPECIFIC AREAS OF MY LIFE WHERE I NEED GOD'S FORGIVENESS? CAN I GO TO CONFESSION THIS WEEK?



PRAYER TIME!

Act of Sorrow: O my God, I thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins: for not loving others, and not loving You. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON FORGIVENESS THIS WEEK



- You invite me in - Meredith Andrews
- Still calls me son - John Waller
- Forgiven - Sanctus Real
- Prodigal - Casting Crowns
- Lord have Mercy - MW Smith
- The Prodigal Song - Cory Asbury
- Prodigal - Sidewalk Prophets
- Father I have sinned - Fr Eugene O'Reilly

Click the links for the YouTube videos to listen to some suggestions!



10:43 MINS



Br Malachy CFR:
Running Away from God

8:53 MINS



Fr Mary Mary CFR:
We've all forgotten how to celebrate