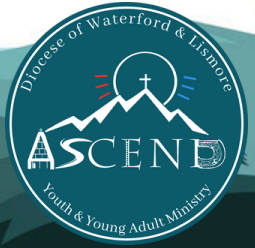




# To the Heights



Year C 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT: LAETARE SUNDAY

Download from [www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources) or subscribe to receive by email!



## The Prodigal Son - A Father's Love

### HEAR: Sunday Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

If you don't have a Bible handy, click the image here to access the Mass readings for this Sunday!



**WEEKLY CHALLENGE!**

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?

**PRAY**

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.

**REFLECT**

- What is the context for this parable? Who was Jesus aiming his words at?
- What was so hurtful about the son asking for his father's inheritance? What was he effectively saying?
- Pigs were considered to be unclean animals - what extra relevance does that have for this story?
- Did his father welcome him back as a servant, like he had hoped?
- What signs of welcome did the son receive?
- How does the eldest brother refer to the younger brother in his complaint to his father?
- How does the father reassure the eldest brother while also explaining the cause for celebration?

**TUNE!** Run to the Father by CodyGames

**GROW BIBLE APPS**

- LAUDATE
- MAGNIFICAT
- CATHOLIC BIBLE
- LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY
- #BIBLE - VERSE OF THE DAY

**GAMECHANGERS!**



- You can download all our Lenten and Easter resources including our Stations of the Cross pack [by clicking here!](#)
- Extra resources on the Sacrament of Confession [here](#)



The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints and heroes, or as we like to call them, Game Changers! Check them out on our [web page!](#)

## HIS WORD & MY LIFE:



## PUZZLE

FIND THE WORDS FROM THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW

- brother
- famine
- father
- fatted calf
- found
- hungry
- inheritance
- Jesus
- lost
- parable
- pigs
- prodigal
- quick
- ring
- robe
- sandals
- two sons
- wasted

I	F	W	G	Z	R	H	X	S	G	Q	Q	V	J	V
O	N	T	B	E	J	E	G	N	T	G	S	K	K	C
F	W	H	H	L	W	W	S	O	O	P	D	G	W	O
Y	L	T	E	O	G	H	M	S	L	U	I	N	I	P
O	A	A	K	R	Z	P	R	O	D	I	G	A	L	P
F	V	R	C	E	I	Y	S	W	V	H	L	H	L	W
Z	V	E	O	D	L	T	O	T	X	S	U	S	E	J
S	J	H	W	B	E	B	A	R	I	N	G	C	G	K
A	B	T	A	Q	E	T	A	N	G	U	S	W	L	K
N	T	O	S	M	D	C	T	R	C	R	N	H	C	S
D	F	R	T	Y	P	H	Y	A	A	E	M	I	X	M
A	E	B	E	D	N	U	O	F	F	P	U	F	H	E
L	F	L	D	I	Q	A	A	W	K	Q	I	C	W	X
S	Z	J	M	U	D	E	N	I	M	A	F	H	S	T
N	C	H	H	U	L	C	X	K	K	C	M	E	G	L

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!

Reflect on the scripture quote and allow thoughts and images that come to you to form part of your doodle prayer: it could be people or situations that need prayer or even areas you might need to change in. Certain words or phrases might stand out for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart as you pray and doodle!



"His father...ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly."

[Click here for some relaxing instrumental music](#)  
SPONTANEOUS WORSHIP | TWO HOURS OF WORSHIP PIANO

## RESPOND!



Can you explain how any four of these words relate to the message of the Gospel?

What do you think God could be saying to you in this Gospel? What speaks to your heart? Maybe it raises questions, maybe it's a little uncomfortable, maybe it offers hope... what matters is that we are open to hearing God speak to us individually.

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# ARMS OPEN WIDE!

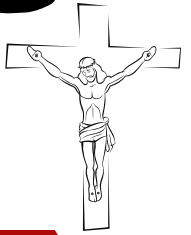
CHECK OUT WHAT CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ABOUT THE PRODIGAL SON CCC 1439



...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.

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

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## THE PRODIGAL SON

READ LUKE 15:1-11-32 OR WATCH AN ANIMATED VERSION HERE

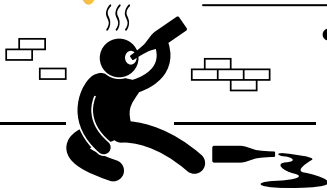
*(The Parable of the Lost Son Bible Animation (Luke 15:11-32))*

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

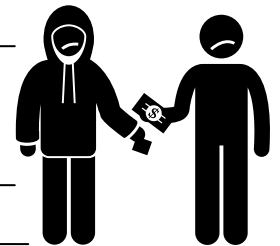


• Why was it so offensive for the younger son to ask for his inheritance?

• 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



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

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**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

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**READ: LUKE 15:1-3, 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



- Run to the Father - Cody Carnes
- 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
- You invite me in - Meredith Andrews



10:43 MINS



**Br Malachy CFR:**  
*Running Away from God*



8:53 MINS



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



# IN HIS SANDALS

Use your imagination to reflect on the parable...

IMAGINE YOU ARE THE PRODIGAL SON IN THIS PARABLE. WRITE A SERIES OF SHORT DIARY ENTRIES CHRONICLING YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE EPISODE.

## PRIOR TO LEAVING HOME

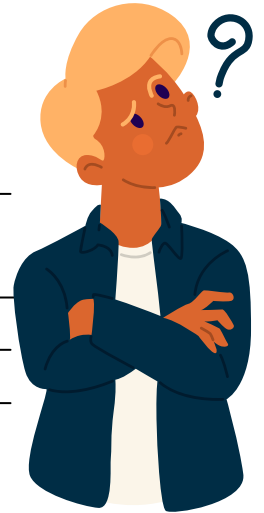
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## THE DAY YOU LEFT

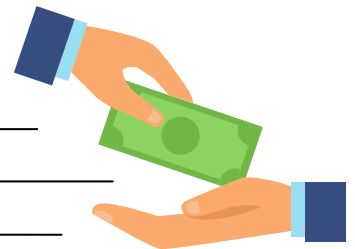
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## A WEEK INTO YOUR NEW LIFE...PARTY CENTRAL!

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## THE MONEY IS GONE...

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# IN HIS SANDALS

## DECIDING TO GO HOME

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## ARRIVING HOME

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## A YEAR LATER...

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