

Welcome to Week 4!

Stepping Forward in Love

Stepping Forward in Love inspired by Scripture

4th Sunday of Lent Gospel - Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Jesus tells the parable of the Prodigal Son

The Pharisees and scribes were grumbling that Jesus associated Himself with sinners, so Jesus told this parable to speak to them of God's mercy for everyone, not just a 'chosen few'. The parable tells of the younger son demanding his inheritance and going off and squandering all the money (sin). Then he 'came to his senses'. He admitted he was wrong and decided to return to his father and ask to be treated as a servant (he was contrite and had repented). But his father forgave him with open arms and had a feast to celebrate his return.

The saints in heaven rejoice when even one sinner returns to God's loving embrace! Help us to know that God's mercy, love and forgiveness is open to us all if we are truly sorry for what we have done wrong, especially in the sacrament of confession. Do I really mean sorry when I say sorry to someone? Do I try to make things right if I have hurt someone? Do I love others by forgiving those who have hurt me? Do I go to confession at least once a year (if I have made my first confession) so I can receive God's forgiveness and be freed of the burden of sin so I can love better?

Laetare Sunday (Sun Mar 30th)

The 4th (middle) Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday or 'rejoicing' Sunday (named after the words of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass 'Laetare Jerusalem ...' or 'Rejoice O Jerusalem...').

On Laetare Sunday the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances, with Easter in sight. The colour rose is used to represent this.

It is also 'Mothering Sunday' - today we remember our mothers, grandmothers and Godmothers, and give them thankful cards and gifts, though in the past people used to celebrate their baptism by visiting their 'mother' church, i.e. where they were baptised.

Am I joyful in my fasting and almsgiving? Do I have true hope in Jesus and Heaven which He has won for us? Do I love God with all my heart?

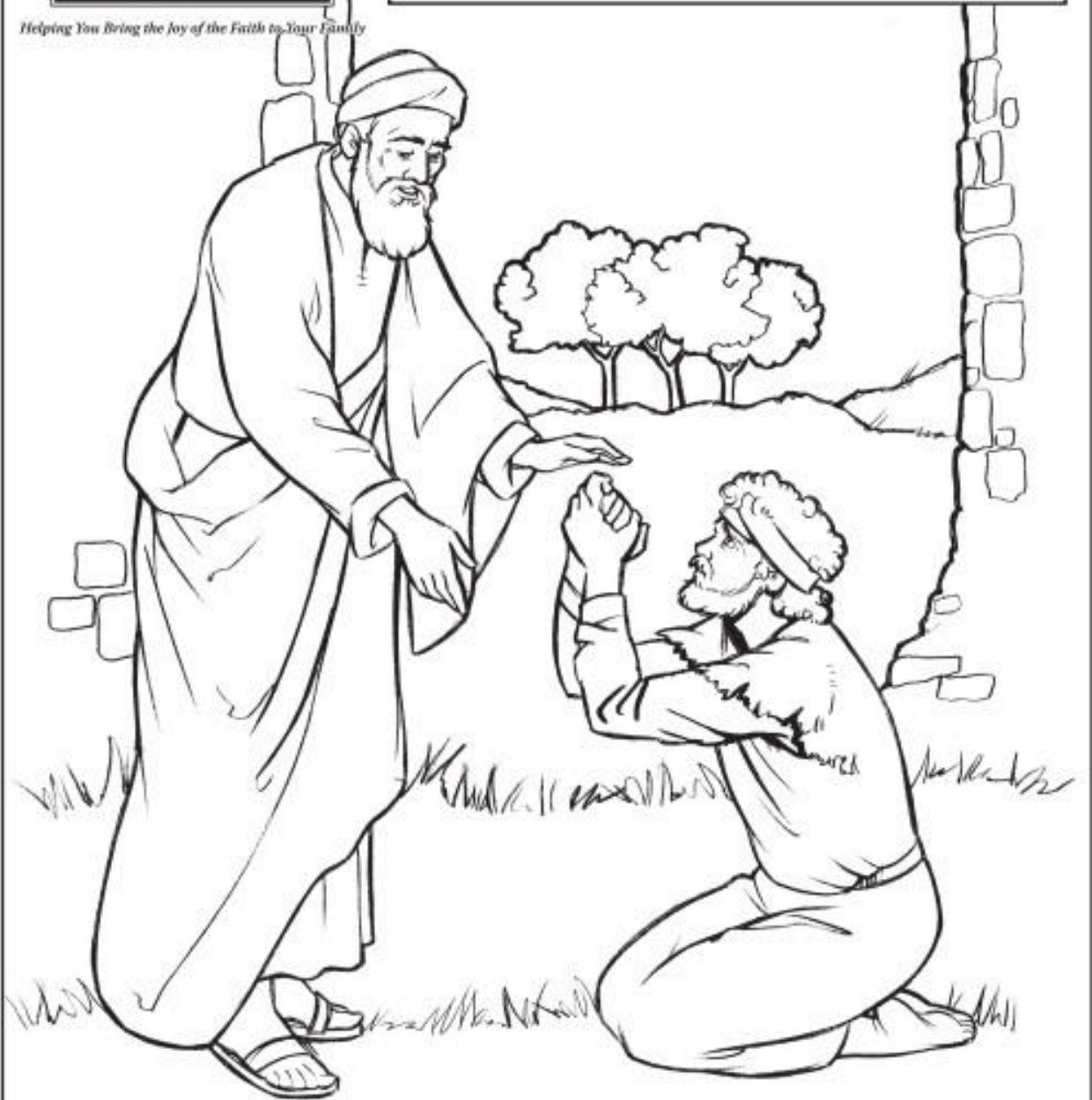
Stepping Forward in Love begins with prayer

- ❖ Light a candle and take time to pray for your mother, Godmother, grandmother and other people who take care of you.
- ❖ *Extended confession time will be on Saturdays throughout Lent 9:30am - 12pm at St Peter's (upstairs in the Pastoral Centre)*
- ❖ Visit church to pray the stations of the cross:
 - ✠ St Gregory's - Sundays at 5.30pm
 - ✠ St Peter's - Sundays at 4pm and Fridays at 11:30am
 - ✠ St. Stephen's - Mondays at 7pm
 - ✠ St Thomas More's - Fridays at 5.00pm

Activity

- ❖ Use the colour rose in your prayer corner this Sunday
- ❖ Make a card or gift for your mother
- ❖ Perhaps send a card to your Godmother
- ❖ Do something nice for those who look after you, to thank them 😊

Helping You Bring the Joy of the Faith to Your Family



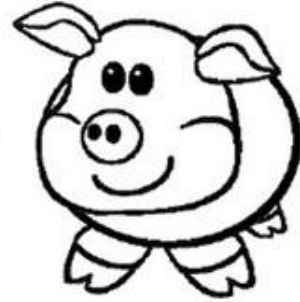
"[The prodigal son said] 'I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers." So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him... [The father said,] 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.'" (Luke 15:18-19,20,23b-24a)

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The Parable of the Lost Son



Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32 (NIV).

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

WEALTH	ESTATE	COUNTRY	PIGS	FOOD
COMPASSION	HIRED	FOUND	FEED	RING
CELEBRATE	STARVING	PROPERTY	FEAST	SONS
KISSED	FATHER	STOMACH	SPENT	LOST