

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS

Word of the Week

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told his disciples this story:

Once a man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Give me my share of the property." So the father divided his property between his two sons. Not long after that, the younger son packed up everything he owned and left for a foreign country, where he wasted all his money in wild living. He had spent everything, when a bad famine spread through that whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat. He went to work for a man in that country, and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs. He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating, but no one gave him a thing.

Finally, he came to his senses and said, "My father's workers have plenty to eat, and here I am, starving to death! I will go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son. Treat me like one of your workers.'"

The younger son got up and started back to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son."

But his father said to the servants, "Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. Give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. Get the best calf and prepare it, so we can eat and celebrate. This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found." And they began to celebrate.

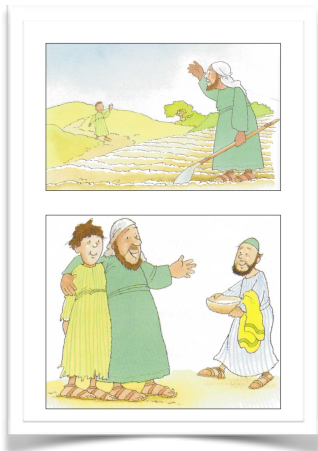
The older son had been out in the field. But when he came near the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants over and asked, "What's going on here?" The servant answered, "Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father ordered us to kill the best calf." The older brother got so angry that he would not even go into the house. His father came out and begged him to go in. But he said to his father, "For years I have worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you. But you have never even given me a little goat, so that I could give a dinner for my friends. This other son of yours wasted all of your money. And now that he has come home, you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast."

His father replied, "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he is now alive. He was lost and has now been found."

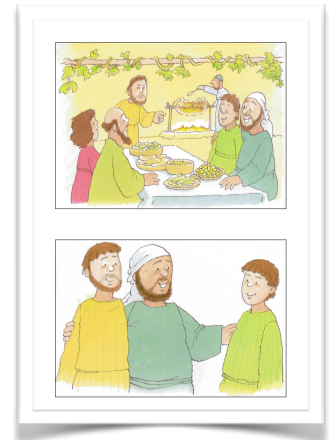
Something to think about...

Pope Francis says: "So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. [...] May the message of mercy reach everyone, and may no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy. God never tires of reaching out to us!"

Something to talk about...



- In the story of the Father with two sons, which character is most like you? The Father who is quick to forgive? The Son who says sorry? Or the Son who is angry at the Father's forgiveness?



- Why do we so often find it hard to forgive?
- When have you had to seek forgiveness from someone else? How did it feel?

Something to do...

This week Fr. Philip will be available to hear confessions in the Chapel on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes. Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is something many Catholics do during Lent to prepare for the great feast of Easter. Please think about going to the Chapel to meet with Fr Philip.



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

This year we are going siLent for Million Minutes! Use your prayer time to be still and silent, using the daily form time reflection.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

Join us in the JUNIOR DINING ROOM on FRIDAY at 8:30am for BREAKFAST WITH GOD!

Come along for free tea, toast, and a moment of reflection.

All very welcome!

