

# RECONCILIATION WEEK

This week is Reconciliation Week when each pupil and staff member has the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession. As we continue through Lent, which is a season of reflection, repentance and spiritual growth, we take time this week to think about mistakes we have made and ask for forgiveness. Reconciliation is about mending broken relationships and restoring peace, which is a central aspect of our Lenten journey.

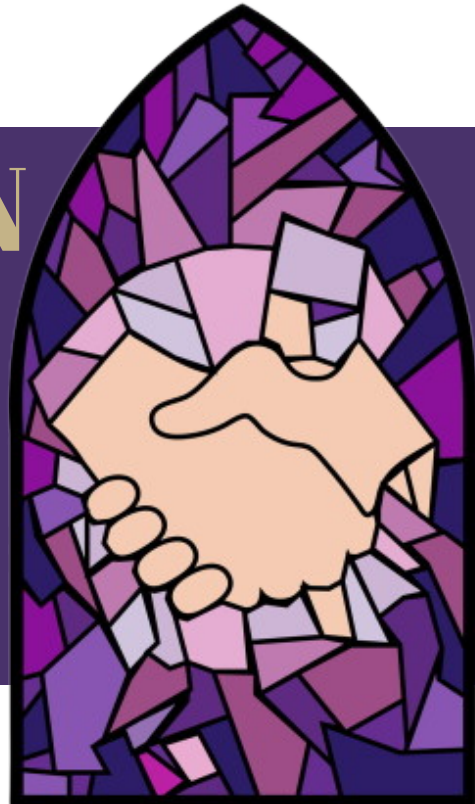
## WORD OF THE WEEK

MATTHEW 18: 21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Father, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. When others have wronged us, may we be ready and willing to put things right, and not make things worse between us. Help us to be kind and tender-hearted, willing to forgive others as readily as you forgive us. We thank you that you are a loving and forgiving father. May we, in return, be the sort of people you want us to be. Amen



"Jesus is there...and He receives you with so much love."

"Do not be afraid of Confession! One who is in line to confess himself feels all these things-even shame- but then, when he finishes confessing, he leaves free, great, beautiful, forgiven and happy. And this is the beauty of Confession." (Pope Francis)



# CONFESSION: A SACRAMENT OF HOPE

The Sacrament of Confession is not just about saying sorry for our mistakes, but about finding real hope and healing. During Lent, we're invited to reflect on our lives and turn back to God, and Confession is the perfect way to do that. It's a reminder that no matter how lost or disconnected we might feel, God is always ready to forgive and restore us. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Confession shows us that hope is always there, waiting for us to take the step of returning to God. It's a chance to let go of guilt and experience the freedom and peace that come with God's love. Don't be afraid to go—God is waiting with open arms to fill you with His hope and mercy.



## A PARABLE OF FORGIVENESS

This week's Word of the Week is a parable in which Jesus teaches us about forgiveness and the importance of being reconciled with others. Lent is a time for us to reflect on our lives and relationships. It's a time to seek forgiveness for our wrongs and to forgive those who have wronged us. The parable we read this week challenges us to not only receive forgiveness but also to give it freely.

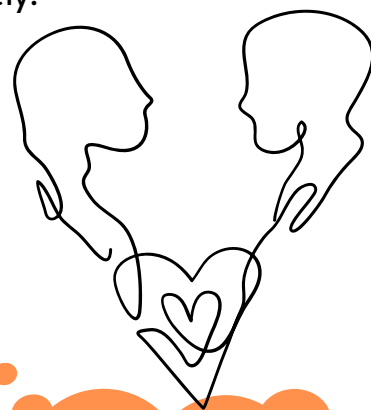
Can you think of a person that you need to forgive?

Forgiveness is the greatest gift that we can receive. The whole reason why Jesus came among us as a man, suffered, and died for us on the cross, was to give us the gift of reconciliation with his Father and with our brothers and sisters.

Jesus' goal is for us to be brought into a perfect union with the Father and each other. He wants us all to have that amazing experience of being forgiven— not just for a moment but for all eternity.

Take a moment to discuss the questions in the thought bubbles with each other, either in pairs or as a class.

Forgiving is not forgetting, what can you learn from the mistakes you have made and been forgiven for? How does this change the way you live your life?



Do you need to forgive yourself for something? Are you still feeling shame or guilt for something you have been forgiven for?

## TAKE A MOMENT...

- Who are the people in my life that I need to reconcile with?
- How can I show more kindness, forgiveness, and love in my relationships with family, friends, and classmates?
- What are the things I've done that I need to ask forgiveness for?
- Are there areas in my life where I need to forgive myself and let go of guilt?
- How can I invite God into my struggles and ask for His guidance in the areas where I need to heal?
- How can I live out the message of reconciliation in my everyday actions, not just during this week?
- How can I be an instrument of peace in my school or community?

Take a moment to be still and to pray and reflect on the above questions:

[CLICK HERE](#) for some quiet reflective music.