31ST MARCH 2025

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

PRAYER AT HOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Week 4 of Lent! As we continue our journey toward Easter, this week is a special time to reflect on God's incredible love and forgiveness. In the Gospel, we hear the beautiful story of the Prodigal Son, where a father joyfully welcomes his son back home with open arms. This reminds us that no matter what mistakes we make, God is always ready to forgive us and embrace us with love.

During this week, let's think about how we can show love and kindness to others, just as God shows love to us. We should say "I'm sorry" when we make mistakes and be willing to forgive our friends and family as well.

As we pray and reflect this week, let's remember that Lent is a time for growing closer to God and preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter. Let's take this opportunity to listen to Jesus and follow His example of love and compassion.

God Bless,

Mrs Linda Payne
Executive Headteacher

Lent Week 4



Gather Together

1. Find a quiet space and sit together.
2. Begin by making the sign of the cross.



Signs of the Cross activity on www.TeachingCatholicKids.com

Listen

3. Read from the scripture from St Luke 15:11-31.



Luke 15:20: "So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

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Reflect

4. .Spend a moment reflecting on this week's message the parable of the Prodigal Son. This beautiful scripture quote from Luke 15:20 tells us an important story about love, forgiveness and the joy of being welcomed back home. Let's analyse this scripture step-by-step:

- **The Journey Home**: The son in the parable made some mistakes and decided to leave his father but when he realised that he wanted to come back, he got up and started his journey home. This shows us that sometimes we might make wrong choices but it's never too late to turn back and seek forgiveness.
- **The Father's Love:** While the son was still far away, his father saw him coming. This tells us that the father was always looking for his son, waiting and hoping for his return. It reminds us that God is always watching over us and is eager to welcome us back when we stray.
- **Filled with Compassion:** When the father saw his son, he was filled with compassion. This means he felt deep love and care for his son, despite the mistakes he had made. It teaches us that God loves us unconditionally, no matter what we do. He is always ready to forgive us when we are truly sorry.
- **A Joyful Welcome:** The father ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. This shows us how joyful the father was to have his son back. It's a beautiful picture of how God feels when we come back to Him after making mistakes. He welcomes us with open arms and celebrates our return.

In summary, this scripture teaches us about the importance of forgiveness and love. Just like the father in the story, God is always ready to forgive us and embrace us when we turn back to Him. It encourages us to be kind and forgiving to others, just as God is to us.

Pray

5. Spend a minute in complete stillness and quiet reflecting and then say the prayer below together.

Dear Heavenly Father,
We come to You with grateful hearts.
We thank You for the love and guidance You provide, just as the father in the story of the Prodigal Son. Help us to understand the importance of family, forgiveness, and the joy of returning home.
May we always know that no matter where we go or what choices we make, Your love for us is unconditional and everlasting. Teach us to be kind and compassionate, to seek forgiveness when we stray and to celebrate the good in others, just as the father celebrated his son's return.
Guide us in our journeys, Lord, and help us to grow in wisdom and strength. May we always find our way back to You.
In Your name, we pray.
Amen.

Living out the Message



6. Here are some ways children can live out the message of the scripture quote from Luke 15:20, focusing on love, forgiveness, and compassion:

- **Reconciliation:** Children can participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. This helps them understand the importance of admitting their mistakes, seeking forgiveness and experiencing God's love and mercy, just like the son who returned to his father.
- **Show Kindness to Others:** Children can look for opportunities to be kind and compassionate to their friends, family and even strangers. Simple acts like helping a classmate, sharing toys or offering a smile can reflect the father's loving embrace.
- **Be Forgiving:** When someone hurts them or makes a mistake, children can show forgiveness. They can remember that just as the father welcomed his son back with open arms, they can also forgive their friends and family, allowing love to heal relationships.
- **Pray for Others:** Children can pray for those who have hurt them or those who are struggling. This helps them develop a compassionate heart and reminds them to see others through the eyes of love, just as the father did for his son.
- **Celebrate Reunions:** When friends or family members come back after being away or after a disagreement, children can celebrate those moments. They can express joy and love, mirroring the father's excitement when his son returned home.
- **Be Patient and Understanding**: Children can show patience with others, especially when someone is going through a tough time. They can offer support and understanding, just as the father patiently awaited his son's return.

By embodying these actions, children can live out the message of love, forgiveness and compassion found in the story of the Prodigal Son, reflecting God's unconditional love in their daily lives.