



Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to you and to your family as we begin this new school year.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus the question about how many times we should forgive. Jesus' answer shows that we must forgive one another just as God forgives us: again and again, without limit.

God is our loving Father and we can always count on his loving forgiveness and on the freedom that his forgiveness brings. Jesus instructs us to be just as forgiving toward others.

Wednesday 13th September 2023

Forgiveness is the lifeblood of any family or community. Pope St John Paul II reminds us, "Forgiveness does not come naturally. Forgiving from the heart can sometimes be actually heroic."

See overleaf to enjoy a special time together this evening exploring your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FORGIVENESS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org – Parents' Pages – Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

Peter asked Jesus,
"Lord, how often must I
forgive my brother?"



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 17th September 2023



Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." Then Jesus told them this story: "There was a king with many servants. One of them owed the king an enormous amount of money. The servant could not pay so he begged for more time to pay his debt. The king felt so sorry for him that he let him go and even cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him a very small amount of money; but he would not give him time to pay and instead had him thrown into prison. When the news reached the king, he sent for the unforgiving servant. 'You wicked servant,' the king said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?' Then the king sent the unforgiving servant to prison to be punished."

Adapted from Matthew 18:21-35

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Gospel through your local parish church.

"May each family rediscover family prayer, which helps to bring about forgiveness" *Pope Francis*



The King, who Jesus speaks about in this Sunday's Gospel, gives us a glimpse of God's compassionate and forgiving nature. We are all part of God's family and, even knowing our faults, God is always ready to forgive us and to help us make a fresh start with him and with each other.



1

Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how often must I forgive someone who does me wrong? Should it be as often as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!" Then Jesus told them this story: "There was a king with many servants. One of the servants owed the king an enormous amount of money. The servant could not pay so he begged for more time to pay his debt. The king felt so sorry for him that he even cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him a very small amount of money; but he would not cancel the debt but instead had the poor servant arrested. When the news reached the king, he sent the unforgiving servant to prison to be punished."

How many times does Jesus say we should forgive someone? Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the Gospel picture make you think about?



2

Wednesday's Word is ...

FORGIVENESS

3

Loving God & Each Other

"Pray and forgive."

St Teresa of Calcutta

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that we must try to forgive others in the same way that we want God (and others) to forgive us. Ask your child what the word 'forgiveness' means to them. Has your child ever asked for and received forgiveness? How did it feel to be forgiven? It may help your child if you tell them about a time when you forgave someone, especially when it wasn't easy to do, or when you were forgiven.

"It is by forgiving that one is forgiven."

St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

Forgiveness is one of God's greatest gifts to us. Each of you say how it feels to forgive someone and make friends again. As we start this new school year, ask your child if there is anyone whose forgiveness they would like. Is anyone they need to forgive? If so, share ideas about how to do this. Perhaps they can: talk gently and lovingly to that person if there is a problem; try to recognise some good qualities in that person; pray and ask God to help them forgive. You might like to end tonight by slowly saying the Lord's Prayer together - thinking carefully about the words (please see below).



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and **forgive** us our trespasses, as we **forgive** those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

S S E V I G R O F W S
G O N E N O E M O S N
F M M S U S E J F E G
J E **P E T E R** G T W N
F O R G I V E F E V P
G N O R W T O G N E N
N E N D F V J D N G H
O H W R O N G O P W O
S S O F **R E T E P** V W
R G J W R O S S E J F
W F J E S U S G F E N

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**



PETER



HOW OFTEN



FORGIVE SOMEONE



DOES WRONG



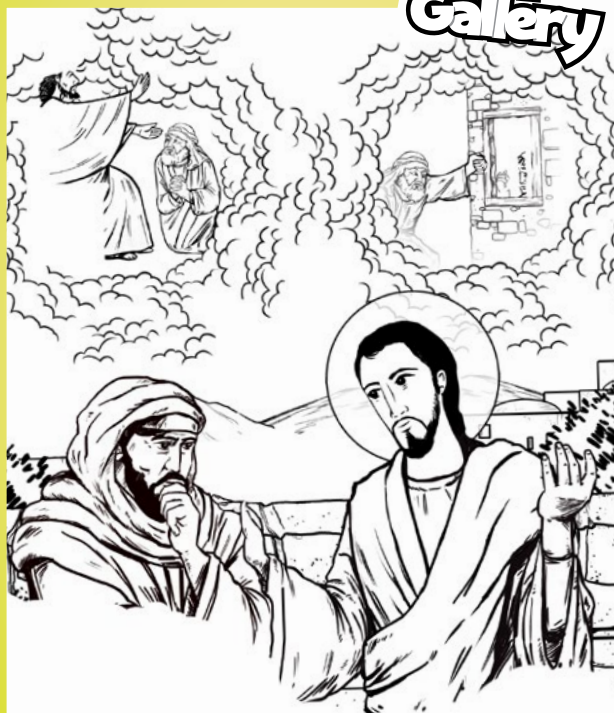
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **a u s** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

soaftuen Pestaura warosnug fosurgivae

_____ said to Jesus, "Lord, how _____ must I

_____ someone who does me _____?



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Giving or asking for forgiveness is a powerful way to build stronger relationships with others and with God. We can be certain that no matter how many times we need to forgive or to ask for forgiveness, God will always help us.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....

