

**March 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year C Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

<sup>15-1</sup>Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition.</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).</li> </ul>
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In this week's gospel we get a look into the lifestyle of Jesus. He's dealing with the 'tax collectors and sinners' people who were considered 'outsiders' by the Pharisees. The main passage in this weeks gospel is the story of the Prodigal son. This is very well known and is the longest parable in the gospels. We have the Father and his two sons. The youngest one gets his inheritance and goes off and squanders it all while the older son stays at home and works hard on the farm. When the young son arrives home to great joy and celebration the older son feels very annoyed. The Father explains to him "you are always with me and all I have is yours; but we must rejoice over your brother who was lost and is found.

Who are the people in our lives who have welcomed us and made us feel part of the 'Family of God'?

**Prayer:**

**Lord thank you** for the people who have taught us what true forgiveness is by their unconditional love and open hearts always accepting us just as we are .

**Forgive us Lord** for the times we did not keep our heart open to welcome those who were lost and returned to our community. Did they feel welcome or were they full of fear?

**Help us Lord** to remember the statement of Jesus "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate and show compassion to all those who need it especially people who feel on the outside because of class, colour or creed .