



St Brendan's & St Mary's Parishes are child safe communities. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

### First Reading Jos 5:9-12

*The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the Passover.*

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9**

*(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. *(R.)*
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. *(R.)*
3. Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. *(R.)*

### Second Reading 2 Cor 5:17-21

*God reconciled us to himself through Christ.*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

### Gospel Acclamation Lk 15:18

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and  
against you.*

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ!*

### Gospel Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

*Your brother here was dead and has come to life.*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."



### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the midst of Lent we are given a moment for rejoicing, Laetare Sunday. All of the readings provide us with reasons for rejoicing. The overarching theme is the prodigal goodness of God. The responsorial psalm sets the context for the reflections. The other readings show how needy people were showered with divine favour. Even in the midst of this rejoicing, we find a challenge. We must undergo a change of heart if we are to rejoice in God.

The goodness of God is strikingly portrayed in the radically new image of father. This is a God who allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our misperceptions. God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God.

The challenges placed before us set out some of the conditions required if we are to be a new creation. We are called to a profound and total reconciliation, first with God and then with each other. Christ was identified with sin so that we might be identified with God's righteousness. Reconciliation requires that we be open to giving and receiving forgiveness. It requires that we both remember and forget. We must always remember the causes of alienation, so that we not succumb to them again. However, we must forget the resentment that we felt so that we not allow it to influence our lives.

# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton  
Phone: 5821 2633

Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website: catholicparish.app/shepparton

Facebook: sheppartoncatholic

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor

Priest in Residence: Fr. Saji Thomas MST

Assistant Priest: Fr Adi Indra

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Pastoral Associate: Anthony Kilmartin

Sacramental Co-ordinator: Jess Doyle

Administration Support: Laura Thompson

Youth Worker: Emma Christy

Housekeeper: Louise Tumua-Malolo

Maintenance Officer/Gardener: Gavin Doherty

Visiting Psychologist: Estela Hutchings

Safeguarding Officer: Kathy Hunt Ph: 5821 2633

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

## Readers & Commentators April 5 & April 6, 2025

6pm	Anthony Kilmartin	Damien Sullivan
8am	Berni Sullivan	Vince Rando
11am	Paul Richardson	Loretta Richardson

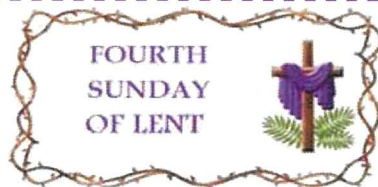
**Recently Deceased:** Gertrudis Boumen.

**Anniversaries:** Catherine Stein.

**March 30, 4th Sunday of Lent.**

**Focus on the Congo, Irene's Story**

- The Second reading will be in Swahili
- Our Congolese parishioners will sing an Offertory Hymn



## Invitation to the Memorial Mass for Iona Marlene Hines (mother of Vanessa Madeira)

Dear St. Brendan's parish family,

We would love to invite you to my Mum, Iona's memorial Mass on Thursday, April 10, at 5pm.

Mum loved the warmth of our parish community and she very much felt at home since her first visit in 1996.

Refreshments will be served after mass in the Pastoral Centre.

Your prayers and presence would mean so much to us, as we celebrate mum Iona's life and her faith she cherished.

Blessings,  
Vanessa Madeira

Please RSVP for catering purposes to Vanessa on 0411 339285.

During the season of Lent there will be NO recessional hymn – people will be asked to leave the church in total silence.

## Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am



Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm,

Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

St Mary's Dookie, Sunday 9.30am

## Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

## Reconciliation

Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

**Rosary**— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

## Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed

**Sacrament:** Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and Fridays 4.45pm - 5.45pm

## Transcending time, space and art form

“There are some stories so vivid, so engaging, and so remarkable that they transcend time, space, and art form,” said David Hallberg, the Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet. While Hallberg didn't specifically speak about the Scriptures, we can apply the above quote to the stories of the people of God throughout the Old Testament and the New. And, of course, at the heart of it we have The Story: the Gospel of Jesus Christ that has been passed down to us through generations.

When I think about the Gospel stories, I think about the events that took place during the time of Jesus: the miracles, the healings, and the encounters He had with people. But we must remember that “the word of God is living and active” (Hebrews 4:12), which means it is still living and active today, it is speaking to us every time we hear it.

The word that comes from God never returns to Him empty because it will accomplish what He intends (cf. Isaiah 55:11). God wants us to be part of that “accomplishment.” He invites us to be part of the story, leaving us free to choose whether or not to participate. Once we say yes—lovingly and freely—He will work in us and through us, making us part of The Greatest Story ever told, one that transcends time, space, and art form.

Fr Adi

*Adapted from the homily for the Solemnity of St Joseph, 19 March 2025 at St Brendan's Church*

## Anointing Mass on Wednesday, April 2 at 11am.

## Praise and Worship hour

Every Tuesday during Lent we will celebrate a Praise and Worship hour. Join us at **St. Brendan's Church** for one hour of Praise and Worship, beginning at **7:00pm**.

Kirk Nicholas will lead us in prayer.

## Candle Bearers for Stations of the Cross (the Passion Play) on Good Friday at 8pm

Anyone who would like to be a candle bearer for the Good Friday Passion Play at 8pm, please let Graeme know ASAP on 0439 401 357.

# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2025

**SUNDAY  
30 MARCH**

2pm  
meet at Numurkah Cemetery  
18 Corke St, Numurkah  
A walk through the Catholic section where many of the Josephite sisters and some priests from Numurkah Parish are buried.


Optional Walk from the cemetery to the Mary MacKillop Garden and History Trail – 2.6km




**SUNDAY  
30 MARCH**

3pm  
Prayer service  
and walk around trail

The Garden features a meandering walking path adorned with Indigenous plants and a series of interpretive signs, one for each decade, which tell the story of the Josephite Sisters' service in Numurkah and their charism deeply connected to education and the empowerment of the marginalised.

**ST BRENDAN'S CHURCH**

**YOUTH GROUP**

**APRIL 4** YEARS 6-10

**3:30 (For a 4pm start)-5.30pm**  
**in the Pastoral Centre**  
**(hall behind the Church)**

Join us for food, games and discussion

shepparton.ym@sandhurst.catholic.org.au


Our next **Men's Group** gathering will be on Saturday, April 5. We will be heading south to St. Mel's Parish. We will meet in the Parish House meeting room at the usual time, 7:30 am.

There has been a lot happening at St. Mel's lately, including the appointment of Bishop Rene and the arrival of Fr. Ronald.

Fr. Ronald will share a reflection with the group, followed by a hearty breakfast. We hope you can join us!



Our **RCIA group** will be heading to Kyabram on Sunday for their retreat and reflection day. This day invites them to reflect more deeply on their journey of faith. They will consider how their lives are changing for the better, recognising these as signs of the Holy Spirit's work within them. They will also reflect on any uncertainties or barriers that may still be holding them back from fully embracing the faith offered in the person of the Risen Christ Jesus. The day will provide time and space to reflect on these important questions. Please keep our RCIA group in your prayers.



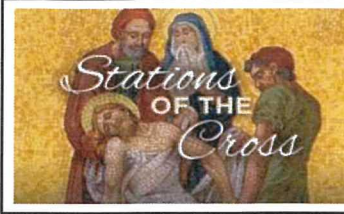
**Serra Club**

Mass will be at 7:15pm on Friday, April 4.



**Sacramental Program**

Candidates will be celebrating their First Reconciliation on Saturday, March 29 & Saturday, April 5.


**Stations of the Cross**  
**St Brendan's Church,**  
**6pm on every**  
**Thursday during Lent.**

*Join us to make Palm Crosses*

**APRIL 3RD  
5PM**

**In the Pastoral Centre.**  
**All welcome, no need to bring anything.**

**ENQUIRIES:  
EMMA CHRISTY  
0436 022 949.**



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
29th and 30th of March 2025

**Irene** lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



*Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia*  
**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)  
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles

Maria Weatherill and Fr Joe will present an overview of the Acts of the Apostles at St Brendan's Pastoral Centre (behind St Brendan's Catholic Church).

**7.30pm-8.30pm, Tuesday, April 1 & Tuesday, April 8.**

**Aims**

- To introduce us to the story of the early Church in Acts of the Apostles.
- To better understand the life and struggles of the early Church.
- To understand how Peter and Paul shaped the early Church through their personal missions.



**Everyone is most welcome!**

**Meditation each Thursday during Lent**  
**7:15am to 7:45am**  
**Join us in the Pastoral Centre.**  
**All are welcome!**



**KIDS WITH CANCER annual breakfast.**

Dookie Lions Club have this event to raise funds for childhood cancer research.

DATE: Saturday, April 12,  
8.00am until 11.00am.

VENUE: St. Andrew's Uniting Church Hall,  
Curtain Street, Dookie.

COST: \$15.00 per person. \$30.00 per family.

FORMAT: A sit down  
'all-you-can-eat' breakfast.

MENU: Cereals, canned fruit, toast and spreads,  
bacon and eggs, juices, tea/coffee.  
Various raffles and lucky door prizes.

Enquires welcome:

Peter McManus. 0439 355 239.

Cyclists/walkers might like to bring bikes or walking shoes to wear off their brekky along the beautiful Dookie Rail Trail.



**Concrete Work at the Front of the Church - Update**

The concreting work at the front of the Church is progressing well. Please continue using the car park entrance next to the presbytery or the front presbytery entrance until further notice.

Thank you for your patience.  
We'll keep you updated on any changes.

**SANDPIPER e-News**

Official news from the Diocese of Sandhurst straight to your inbox.



www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/news-e-news/sandpiper-e-news

**Sacred Heart St Colman's Shepparton Class of 1977-1982 (Year 7-Year 12)**

**The Festival of 60!**

Join us to celebrate at the Peppermill, May 3, 7 PM.  
For more info, contact Dianne Brown at 0419 223 487.



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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 2025**

“... His father saw him,  
and was moved with pity ...” (Lk 15:20)

‘The [Jubilee Year] theme is “**Jesus Christ our Hope**”  
for He is the aim of our pilgrimage, and He Himself is the way, the path to follow.’  
(Pope Francis)

## THE GOSPEL

The tax collectors and sinners, however, were all crowding round to listen to him, and the Pharisees and scribes complained saying, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So, he told them this parable:

Then he said, ‘There was a man who had two sons...

[When the younger son returned...]

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening and kill it; we will celebrate by having a feast, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son... was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out and began to urge him to come in; but he retorted to his father, “All these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed any orders of yours, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his loose women - you kill the calf we had been fattening.” ‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only

right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”

*(Extracts from Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)*

**Read and re-read the Gospel passage**, pausing for words or phrases that may ‘stand out.’

**Talk with Jesus** about what comes to mind or take some moments to rest in God’s loving presence.

## THE DESTINATION, THE WAY, THE PATH TO FOLLOW

**Two sons each choose their own way.** As if his father was already dead to him, the younger asks for his inheritance. When, after squandering it all, he returns to beg forgiveness, his father runs to embrace and clothe him with compassion, love, honour - and no words of accusation. The elder son, lost to resentment and self-pity, sees himself as an unrewarded worker. Both sons must discover that they are beloved children of a loving parent who wants nothing but to love, welcome and forgive. How does God feel about me? Can I cope with a God who loves me extravagantly, as I am, and who loves those I might judge unworthy?

## FROM FELLOW PILGRIMS – FOR REFLECTION

**Jesus brought healing**, graciousness, compassion and love, in ways never known before. He astonished, touched and frightened those who could not understand the source of such goodness. He was utterly transparent and open to God’s love acting through him. Love was dominant over fear. He spoke truth from the heart to the hearts of those ready to listen. He was moved to tears at others’ sorrow and moved to anger by exploitation of people. He challenged those who put burdens on others or who discarded the little ones. He welcomed and spoke for the children. He fed the hungry. He said that we who have plenty must share with those who have little. He left disciples to finish what he began. We are among these disciples.

*(AFES, Meet Jesus Again, 4, 4)*

**God so loved the world.** However powerful the resistance to grace might be in ourselves or others, we are never entitled to lose hope in what God can do – and has already done. *(Tony Kelly, The Creed by Heart, 157)*

**There is no need to deny** that even the best among us go to God marked by the tensions, imperfection, and unfinished business of the human condition. But to meet this judge is to encounter the ultimate love that can transform and purify.

*(Tony Kelly, The Creed by Heart, 158)*

**Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.** As the Father has sent me, so I send you... Receive the Holy Spirit... If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them... (Jn 20:21-23) Jesus’ gift of peace and reconciliation means that the disciples once themselves forgiven, are sent forth as the agents of divine forgiveness.

*(Tony Kelly, The Creed by Heart, 144)*

**Grant me to recognise** in other people, Lord God, the radiance of your own face.

*(Teilhard de Chardin, in Maurice Ryan (Ed.) Heartlines, 80)*

**He will teach us,** for in beholding his life we find that he is the best example.

*(Saint Teresa of Avila, Carmelites Newcross)*

**In general, some of the signs** that we are loving ourselves the way Jesus does are the following: We experience a growing need for prayer. We can give a reasonable account of our strengths and weaknesses. When clouds appear on the horizon of significant relationships, we can stay put and say our piece, rather than keep quiet and run for cover. There is a growth in compassion.

*(Patrick O’Sullivan, Prayer and Relationships, 60)*

### **Find words or an image for**

- Insights gained from your reading and prayer today.
- A hope, intention or prayer for the future.

You may like to write down your thoughts or a prayer.



## A PRAYER

**We turn to you, Compassionate One,** trusting that you will restore our loving kindness when it is depleted.

**Guide us in knowing** what is required and what needs to be released. Place within us a strong hope that you are there with us whenever we choose to be with those who suffer.

**You are our strength and companion of love. Thank you** for moving our spirits toward ever deeper, fuller, and more enduring compassion. Amen.

*(Joyce Rupp, Prayers of Boundless Compassion, 88)*



**Prepared for Lent 2025 (Year C) for the Sandhurst Diocese:** PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552  
Email: [adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

**Acknowledgements:** "Jesus Christ our Hope," Pope Francis, General Audience 18 Dec 2024; Adult Faith Education Sandhurst, Meet Jesus Again (Leaflet series) Part 4 "Encounters with Jesus; Experiencing the Reign of God", Sandhurst Diocese, 2007; Kelly, Tony CSsR, The Creed by Heart: Re-Learning the Nicene Creed, Blackburn, Vic: Harper Collins, 1996; Rupp, Joyce, Prayers of Boundless Compassion, Mulgrave Vic: Garratt Publishing, 2018; Teilhard de Chardin quoted in Ryan, Maurice (Ed.), Heartlines: Prayer Resources for a Contemporary (Revised and Updated) Hamilton Qld: Lumino Press, 2013; St Teresa of Avila quoted at [www.carmelitesnewcross.ie](http://www.carmelitesnewcross.ie)



# Along the track

## An Invitation

A long time ago now, not long after I first started teaching, I was assigned a pretty tough class, only four or five periods a week but that was enough for them and for me! Many, if not most of them just wanted to be out of there and into the workforce. The worst of it was that I had them for the last two periods on Friday afternoons and fellow teachers will understand what I mean by that.

Sometimes there are times when we can feel a bit overwhelmed or even a bit helpless, but I was given great advice then that I have since used very, very often. Ask yourself: “What are the possibilities here?” In other words, look for the positives, see the possibility not just the problem.

A few years ago a TED talk called ‘Celebrate what is right with the World’ became very popular. DeWitt Jones was a long time photographer for the National Geographic magazine and his experiences from those world-wide travels gave him a unique perspective on life. Among his words of wisdom, he offered the following: “When we celebrate what is right with the world, we get the energy to fix what is wrong”.

The world we live in today can be overwhelming at times and the questions that confront us seem so big and the pace of change feels impossible to keep up with. Anger and violence seem to be spreading, not just overseas but in our own communities. What life might look like moving forward can be daunting at times and the temptation can be to become negative, to think that all was well in the past (it wasn't) and to become very uncertain about change.

I worked with a boss some years ago who came to meetings where suggestions were made and proposals abounded. He came with this mindset: let's see how we can make this work. He had to confront very difficult situations at times, and I heard him say more than once, I am sorry that I can't do anything about that but I am here to say, what can I help you do to move forward. Most of us know that section in the Book of Ecclesiastes – there is a time for everything. A time, and that's the point. It doesn't have to be forever, we move on, we grow, we mature, we can change. We can't stay the same as the world changes around us.

How we approach situations can mean a lot to us and to others. Are we a ‘yes, but...’ person or a ‘why not?’ person? We can stay in the negative or dig ourselves out with the positive. Of course there will be times of sadness, times when we get despondent and feel unable to cope, times when everything seems too hard. But these are not the times to throw our dreams away. Sometimes when we feel we are not coping, we think we can escape by just getting busy all the time and that may work for a while but there is a time for everything! The power of a dream, no matter how small the canvas may be, can bring new energy into making life new again. Absolutely nothing new could possibly happen in the world if it weren't for its dreamers. Jesus had a dream of love, justice, peace and real happiness – we call it the Reign of God. He left it with us to bring it about and, as he said on many occasions, it is within your reach.

While dreams are not certainties, they can bring a direction, we can imagine what might be, we can imagine what I might bring to this situation and how it might be transformed. Dreams tell us a lot about ourselves, the quality of my ideals, our beliefs, our hopes. But we tend to suppress them, to think of them as a waste of time, get on with life, take it on the chin etc.

Dreams don't have to be about great things, but what I want to achieve here, in this place, in this classroom perhaps, in this neighbourhood, for my family, our parish. The fact is that without dreams, no plans are possible. Dreams help us not to be stuck in memory, impervious to today. They are an invitation to today, an invitation to a future still in process. Do you want to be part of making that?

Regards  
**Jim Quillinan**

Email: [jquillinan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:jquillinan@dcsi.net.au)

4th Sunday of Lent

30 March 2025 - Year C

**"Your brother here was dead and has come to life."**

## Something to Think About

Can you think of a time you needed to be forgiven? How did it feel before and after you were forgiven?

## The Story

Today's long gospel story is about God's enormous love and compassion for us.

## The Scriptures

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (15:1-3, 11-32)*

Tax collectors and sinners were all crowding around to listen to Jesus. So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses started grumbling, "This man is friendly with sinners. He even eats with them." Then Jesus told them 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 leave and 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 mad 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 your money on bad women. 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.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Group Discussion

Imagine you are the youngest son from the story. How would you have felt as you made your way home, preparing to see your father again after wasting all his money? When your father came towards you with a loving smile and open arms were you surprised?

Maybe you prefer to imagine yourself as the older son. How would you have reacted if your younger brother came back after making lots of bad choices and he was welcomed with a party? Do you find it hard to believe the amazing love of the father?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Gathered as one with all creation, let us pray for the needs of the world.

*Reader 1:* We pray for the leaders of our Church and our world. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for those who are far away from their families. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for all parents. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for forgiveness. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray for courage to try again when we make mistakes. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 6:* We pray for our own needs. *(Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions).* Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



God our Father,  
We thank you for loving us so much and  
for understanding us so well.  
May we always turn to you when we  
need forgiveness.  
Amen.

## Video (optional)

Click to watch the video: [Two Sons and a Father](#)



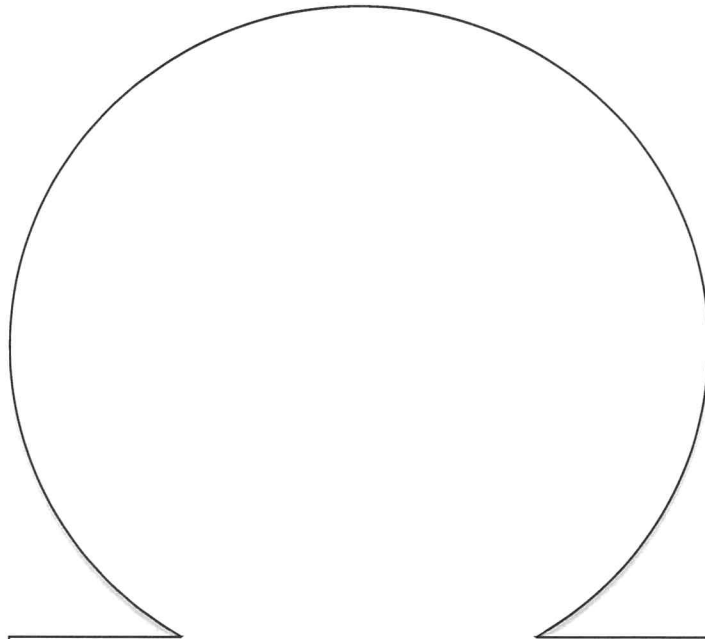
## Group Activity (optional)

### THE LOVING FATHER

*You will need: templates printed on white cardboard, strips of coloured construction paper 8 cm x 28cm, markers, scissors, white paper, glue stick, wool/twine, craft eyes (optional).*

1. Fold the construction paper into thirds.
2. Cut out the template (head/verse).
3. Trace around each child's hands and cut them out.
4. Glue the template and the child's hands onto the construction paper as shown.
5. Draw on the face and glue on craft eyes if using.
6. Add hair to the top of the head using wool or twine.





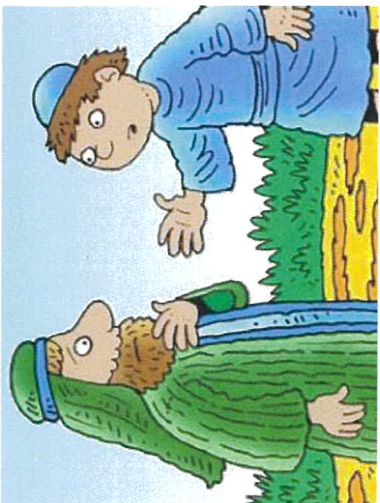
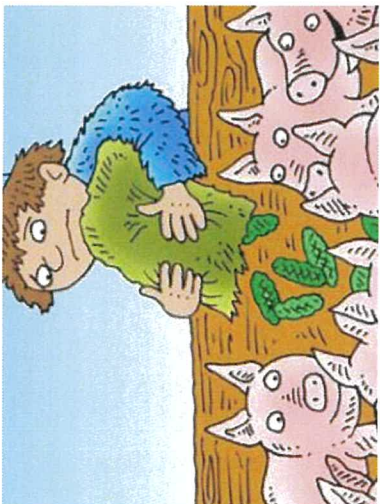
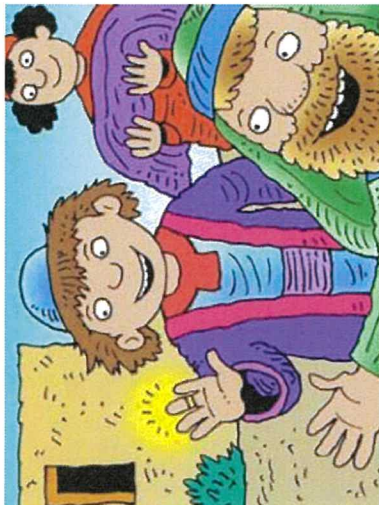
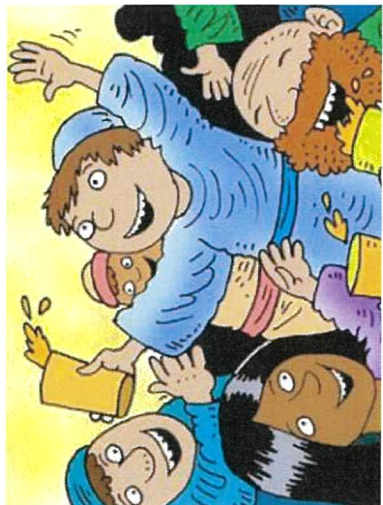
*"We should be glad  
and celebrate!  
He was lost and has  
now been found."*

*Luke 15:32*



# JESUS' STORY OF THE LOVING FATHER

- Write the story under each picture or use the pictures to tell the story to your family.
- The young son wanted to leave home. ■ His father gave him money and he left.
  - But he wasted all the money having a good time. ■ He had nothing left to live on.
  - He lived with the pigs and thought about his father at home.
  - He felt sorry and decided to go back home. ■ His father saw him coming.
  - His father ran out to meet him and hugged his son.
  - The loving father was so glad to have him back that he threw a party to celebrate.





## **CCR SANDHURST**

**Installation of Fr Arun Korlakanti  
as Spiritual Director of CCR Sandhurst**

**by Bishop Shane McKinlay**

**Mass 11.30am**

**preceded by praise and worship 11.15am**

**St Brendan's**

**Knight St. Shepparton**

**Sat 29th March, 2025**

**Followed by lunch and talks by Fr Arun**

**at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre**

**Lunch: Please bring a plate to share**

**All welcome**

**Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196 Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282**

**Denise Illot : 0407 506 813**