



Weekly Bulletin

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

St. Michael's Church, 58 Orwell Street, Blacktown & St. Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

30 MARCH 2025

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Mary Queen of the Family (MQOF) parish strives to grow as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, continuing to deepen in understanding the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church and to live as a faithful and committed Catholic community, evangelising and responding to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

FAREWELL FR. EVER!



Dear members of MQOF Parish,

Fr Ever Bernaldez, our assistant priest for the last two and half years, will be leaving MQOF on Thursday, 10th April, to assist Fr Oliver Aro at Quakers Hill over the Easter period, and then after administering the parish while Fr Oliver is on annual leave, will return to the Philippines on June 5th. His last Sunday Mass here at MQOF will be the 10am Mass at St Patrick's next Sunday. There'll be a farewell morning tea after the Mass. Thank you, Fr ever, and we wish you well in your future

LITURGY TIMES

Sunday Masses

5.30pm Sat Vigil (St Patrick's)
7.00am Sun (St Patrick's)
8.00am Sun (St Michael's)
9.30am Sun (St Michael's)
10.00am Sun (St Patrick's)
11.00am 4th Sun - Filo Mass (St Michael's)
2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)
1.00pm - Syro-Malabar Mass (St Michael's)
5.30pm Sun (St Patrick's)
6.00pm Sun (St Michael's)

Weekday Masses

St Michael's: 8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
7.30pm Wed only

St Patrick's: 9am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs,
Sat and 7.30pm Fri only.

RECONCILIATION

St Michael's: Wed 6:30pm-7:20pm

St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm-7:20pm &
Sat 9:30am-10:30am

HOLY HOUR

St Michael's: Wed 6:30pm-7:30pm

St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm-7:30pm

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Anointing of the Sick by appointment.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Parable of the prodigal: "While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him."
Luke 15: 1-3. 11-32

The parable at the centre of today's gospel-reading is about male behaviour in a society in which shame and honour were important considerations. The younger son brought shame on his family by pestering his father for his share of the family inheritance and by his loose and riotous living; the extravagant father set himself up as a target of the criticism of fellow, hard-working fathers because of his leniency and failure to call his younger son to account and the elder brother proved himself to be as lost as his younger brother through his petulant anger and the insults he directed at his father.

While this parable is the story of what happened when the younger son in a privileged family insisted on going his own way after getting his inheritance from his father, it is also a journey into the complex relationships that can develop in a family when self-interest surfaces and takes hold. The parable was also Jesus' response to the grumblers around who were complaining about his welcoming sinners and even eating with them. It offers an insight into the compassion, sensitivity, love and care that characterised the way in which reached out to those around him as he went about his mission to the world. Moreover, it illustrates that Jesus understood not only the complexity of human relationships but the range of emotions we can all experience as we make our way through life. The different kinds of behaviour we display and the variety of emotions we express all give others an insight into what's going on inside us. (Cont'd...)

Parish Directory

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown &
St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown.

Parish Office: At St. Patrick's Church. Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm

Telephone: 02 9622 1125 A/H: 02 8705 0830.

Website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Wim Hoekstra

Assistant Priests: Fr. Ever Bernaldez, MSP & Fr. Andrew Rooney

Deacon: Rev. John Cina

Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole Email: accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Secretary: Jill Franco (Tue to Fri)

Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Gerald "Ged" Oblea. (Mon to Wed) Mobile: 0422 724 008

Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au

Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

Parish Pastoral Council: Chair: Cecil Fernandes; Asst Chair: Joshua Carr Secretary: Savita Surendra

Members: Beato Pudadera, Christe Degollacion, Ekhlas Ambili, Erica Luiz, Helena Vea, Harlane Petersen, Sidney Lazum, Fr. Wim Hoekstra, Fr. Andrew Rooney, Fr. Ever Bernaldez, Rev. John Cina.

Parish Schools:

St Michael's Primary:

P : 8869 6200

<https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

St Patrick's Primary:

P : 8869 6000

<https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

Nagle College:

P : 8887 4500

<https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

Patrician Brothers College:

P : 8811 0300

<https://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au>

Catholic Early Learning Centre (St Michael's) :

P : 8814 8406

<https://www.celcblacktownstn.catholic.edu.au>

Aged Care Facilities:

Opal Nursing Home (37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 9852 9600

Mullauna Retirement Village (61 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 8822 2100



It is, therefore, instructive for us to look at the emotional turmoil going on inside the two sons at the centre of this parable. Their experience is a mirror for us that reflects to us something of ourselves. Therein lies food for our reflection.

However, in order for us to come to better understand this parable,

we need to look at the societal context in which it is set. To begin with, we are presented with a young man who had seemingly grown bored with country life and was itching to get a taste of exciting city life. Even though his father gave in to the young man's pleading and even gave him the full share of the inheritance due to him, the lad still had a binding, filial responsibility to care for his father in his father's old age. The fact that this wayward son squandered all he had received (did not relieve him of his duty to support his father. Meanwhile, the older son also had an entitlement to an inheritance equal to that given to his younger brother.

What makes the father a target of criticism from all those who knew him was the extravagant reception with which he welcomed home the errant younger son. Societal expectations immediately categorised the old man as a fool. Moreover, the restoration of the ring of sonship to the young man's hand, his being clothed in lavish garments and the provision of the choicest meat for a celebratory meal, all before the older son had come in from toiling in the fields, would have been labelled as the actions of a doddering old fool. The point, of course, is that the beneficence, forgiveness, compassion and love of God, represented in the father's conduct, are not going to be controlled and limited by societal expectations. God's love and forgiveness for those of us who stray are limitless. Worthy of note is the fact that the young man's decision to return home seeking forgiveness was motivated by self-interest rather than true compunction.

The conclusion he had reached was that, even if he were treated only as a hired servant, he would be far better off than having to endure the destitution into which he had fallen. The white-hot anger that erupted from the older son at his feeling slighted and overlooked by his father would have been seen by observers as understandable and justified, (and, maybe, by us too!) After all, here was the only one in the family who had remained loyal to and supportive of the elderly father. Consequently, he would have been applauded by the neighbours. Yet, we are left to wonder whether he had a change of heart and brought himself to reconcile with both his father and younger brother.

The genius of the parable, whether it is a transcript of a story told by Jesus or a creation put together by Luke, is that it does not have a fairytale ending. In fact, we are not offered a clear conclusion, but left puzzling over the messiness that is often the fallout from broken family relationships - life situations with which we are not entirely unfamiliar. Our own experience has taught us that God's boundless mercy, compassion, forgiveness and love are not always recognised, appreciated and welcomed by us, by our family members and by those beside whom we sit in our church pews every weekend. This parable gives us opportunity to pause and reflect on the way in which we respond to the approaches our beneficent God makes to us, as well as on the pettiness and petulance we display when we believe we have been slighted or overlooked by those with whom we live, work and associate.

Through this parable, Luke invites us to ask ourselves with which character we most closely identify. Perhaps we may identify with something in the behaviour of each of the characters. It may be easier for me to ask myself to name the Lenten challenges which the parable calls me to address and to set about actually addressing them.

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**TIME TO TURN BACK TIME!
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS
SUNDAY 6TH APRIL, 3AM AEDT**

Remember to turn back your clocks 1 hour before bed time on Saturday 5th April.

Palms for Palm Sunday

Please drop your palms into the Parish Office from Sunday 6th - Thursday 10th April.



Join us every Tuesday from 10am until 12:00pm at Sid Moseley St. Michael's Church and every Friday from 10:00am till 12:00pm at Cardinal Clancy room at St. Patrick's Church, for our Arts and Crafts activities will include: Embroidery and Embellishment, Crocheting, Knitting, Arts and Crafts (Painting) & Sewing. All sessions are free. Materials for the lessons is provided or bring your own materials. **Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.**



For a laugh

Late one night, a burglar broke into a house he thought was empty. He tiptoed through the living room but suddenly he froze in his tracks when he heard a loud voice say: "Jesus is watching you!"

Silence returned to the house, so the burglar crept forward again. "Jesus is watching you," the voice boomed again. The burglar stopped dead again. He was frightened. Frantically, he looked all around. In a dark corner, he spotted a bird cage and in the cage was a parrot.

He asked the parrot: "Was that you who said Jesus is watching me?" "Yes," said the parrot.

The burglar breathed a sigh of relief and asked the parrot: "What's your name?" "Clarence," said the bird.

"That's a dumb name for a parrot," sneered the burglar. "What idiot named you Clarence?" The parrot said, "The same idiot who named the Doberman Jesus.

After the Baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Isaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 33:2-7. R. V.9

R ~ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 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: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

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."

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

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PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maria O'Brien, Guy Cassar, Colin Newell, Agnes Prsa,
Joseph Chuong

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Segunda Biso, Frederick J. Belchambers, Simeon Assal,
Francis Susainathan, Modesta Ablir, Joseph Kolmac, Ante Milina,
Teodoro, Emma & Conrado Sibulo, Josefina Manacop,
Ivan Mendonca

DECEASED

Maria & Joseph Bugeja, Erlinda Abaldonado, Salome Morales,
Jidgi Jardeleza, Joseph Anthony Dias, Bienvenida Callao,
Jeffrey Chia Kim Tee, Joselito Gomez, Joe Rodrigues

SICK

Amanda Sales, Allan McKay

Mass intentions can be requested online by visiting the website.
<https://www.mqofblacktown.org/mass-intention-or-offering-request>

Our Liturgy This Week

Fri 4 Apr — 6.30pm, Stations of the Cross, Confessions & Mass



VICTUS

HUMAN DIGNITY: THE TRUTH ABOUT ABORTION



Talk by
Pieta Winkels

Stations of the Cross + Reconciliation + Mass + Fellowship

Friday 4th April (First Friday)
6:30pm Stations of the Cross & Reconciliation
7:30pm Mass 8:30pm Talk

Suggested donation \$5

THE SACRAMENTS / MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving of the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or after office hours number 02 8705 0830.



PARISH GROUPS

HOLY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Charles Hyson, 0412 631 602, www.holyfamilyfellowship.com
Meeting Time and Venue: Please contact Charles for more information.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS



Contact: Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 am at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S



Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533 (for statue bookings)
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Thursday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

LEGION OF MARY ST PATRICK'S



Contact: Doris Zammit, 0419 274 002 (for statue bookings)
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, 6:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS



Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533
Meeting Time and Venue: Monday 9:30am-10:30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church. All are welcome!

MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP



Contact: Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877
Meeting Time and Venue: 18th May 2025, 12pm – 2pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

ROSARY GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday after the 8am Mass, at St Michael's church.

CATECHIST MINISTRY

Contact: Sandra Baker
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
 For more information, please contact the parish office.

TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando, 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday (during school term only), 2pm – 4pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St Patrick's Church.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 3.00pm at Sid Mosley Centre St Michael's Church

YOUTH MINISTRY



Contact: Parish Office
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
 For More Information please contact our Youth Minister through the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF INITIATION

Baptism

Parents wishing to have their children baptised are to contact the parish office prior to attending a Baptism workshop.

The next workshop will on Saturday 5th April 2025 @ 2pm - St. Patrick's Church.

For more information please logon to our website:
<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025



Registrations for Sacramental processes are **NOW OPEN!**

Sacramental program dates and registration forms are available online on our parish website:

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/>

For more information, please contact our

Sacramental Coordinator, Gerald "Ged" Oblea at sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au or on (02) 9622 1125 (option 3) /

Join Mary, Queen of the Family Parish for

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - 12th & 13th April 2025
 Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Church - Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm
 Sunday: 7am, 10am & 5.30pm
 Holy Mass at St. Michael's Church - 8am, 9.30am & 6pm

Holy Thursday - 17th April 2025
 Lauds (Morning Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 9am
 Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Patrick's Church - 7.30pm
 Compline (Night Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 10pm

Good Friday - 18th April 2025
 Youth Passion Re-enactment at School Grounds - 10am
 Passion of the Lord at St. Patrick's Church - 3pm
 Passion of the Lord at St. Michael's Church - 3pm

Holy Saturday - 19th April 2025
 Lauds (Morning Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 9am
 followed by Confessions - 9.30am-10.30am
 Easter Vigil Mass at St. Patrick's Church - 6.30pm

Easter Sunday - 20th April 2025
 Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Church - 7am, 10am & 5.30pm
 Holy Mass at St. Michael's Church - 8am & 9.30am

For more information, be sure to check our website or contact the Parish Office
www.mqofblacktown.org.au or (02) 9622 1125



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.

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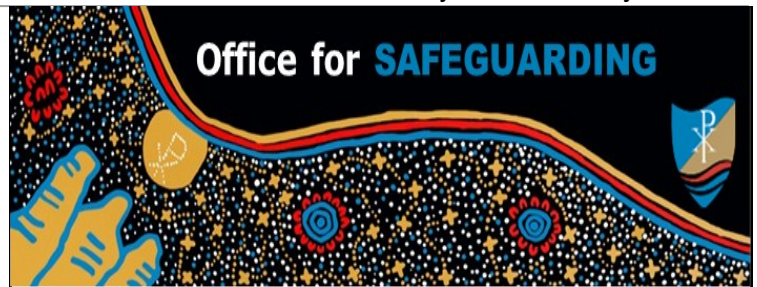
CHURCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Roof repairs have commenced and pending the weather should be completed by the end of May, when we start on our security arrangements at both St Michael's and St Patrick's with the grant which we received from the State Government recently.

To assist our parish needs, can you consider donating regularly online, either via EFT, credit/debit cards or even envelopes. This will help us plan for the future of Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Fr Wim



Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 3 April

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Thursday 3 April at St Aidan's Parish Centre, Rooty Hill for Cycle 2 (Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services.

APPEAL—THIS WEEKEND

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan

Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



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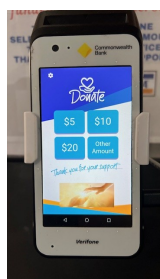
From \$25 per session.

For more information:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

You can also support the parish by using our **Tap & Go Machine**. The machine amount is variable, please use the screen to donate the amount you wish to give. It also accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay and Pay Wave. All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.



Planned Giving (Direct Debit or Credit Card) is also an option if you wish to do cashless donation to the parish, forms are available in the foyer and on our parish website or contact the parish office on 9622 1125.

Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to: www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations or use the QR code. You can also send your offerings/donations thru bank transfer:

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Reference: 6004 - Donor's Name

SECOND COLLECTION: For the Parish

Account Name: Blacktown Catholic Church
Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 0000 0677
Reference: 6004 ~ Donor's name

If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Sarah at accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au. Thank you so much for your continued support to our parish. We are grateful!



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*We can help you with information to meet NDIA, Aged Care, ATO and our Company Policy standards. **Monday and Wednesday ONLY.



NAGLE COLLEGE SCHOOL TOURS:

1 APRIL 2025—9AM-10.30AM

6 MAY 2025—9AM– 10.30AM

Nagle College, Blacktown South

Families interested in enrolling in our College will have the opportunity to explore our school grounds and facilities, meet our staff, and to ask any questions you may have about the enrolment process.

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www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au



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Enrolment Packs Available Now.

Please call the school office to organize your enrolment pack or download an enrolment form from our school website.

<https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/>

Or

During weekdays on 8869 6000
between 8:30am and 3:30pm



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155 Reservoir Road Blacktown South

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SCHOOL TOURS

Tues 4th March 3:45pm-4:45pm

Fri 7th March 9:30am-10:30am

Tues 1st April 3:45-4:45pm

Contact the school office on 8869 6200 or download an enrolment pack from our website





Lent is a time to focus on the act of forgiveness.

We ask God to forgive us for the wrong things that we do. In the story of the prodigal son....

What wrong things did the younger son do? _____

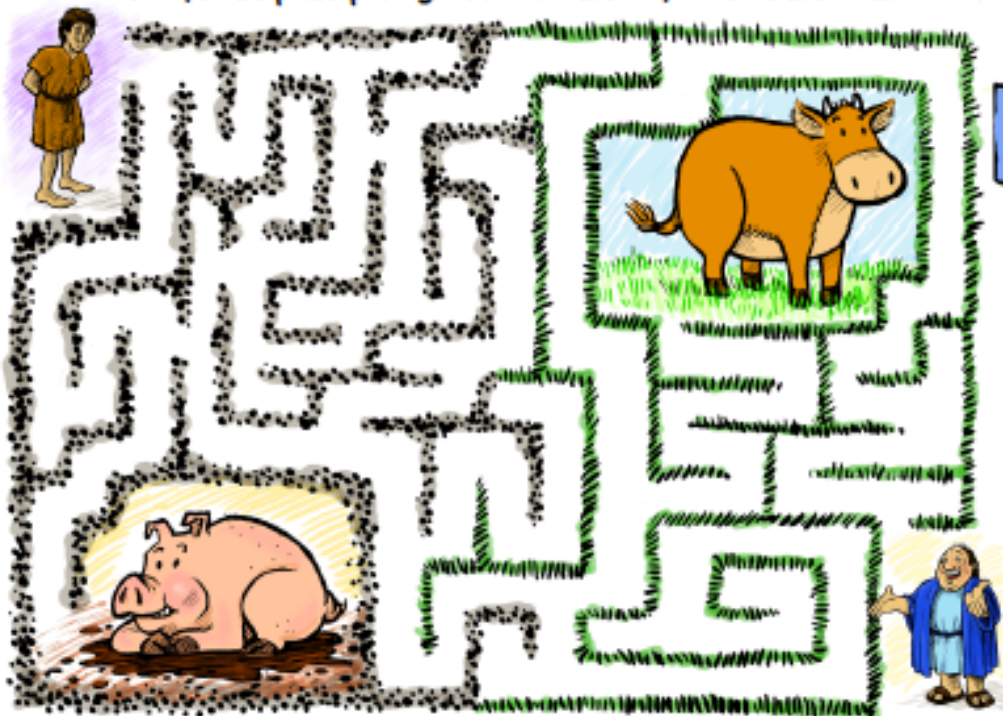
What did he do to show he was sorry? _____

When I do things against my friends,
I can show them that I am sorry by...

When I do things against my family,
I can show them that I am sorry by...

When I do things against God,
I can show him that I am sorry by...

Can you help the prodigal son find his way back to his father?



Dear God,
help me when
I turn away from
you. You always
call me back,
help me listen
to your voice.
Give me the
strength to
forgive as you
forgive. Amen.