

Prayer and Liturgy at home

Each week we will be sending out Prayer and Liturgy which you can carry out as a family at home. The theme of the week will be shared with you on a Friday. Prayer and Liturgy is a way of praying and talking to God.

This is a time to come together to:

- Gather—having a quiet reflective place to begin by making the sign of the cross.
- Listen to the Word—A Gospel reading or a Parable to read together. This is a time where we listen to God through scripture.
- Respond by talking about the message of the Gospel—reflecting, meditating, saying prayers, offering thanks for the week.
- Going Forth to share the Word with other family members of the message you would like to give.

We would love to see some examples of you sharing your prayer and liturgy at home as a family through pictures, your responses and just coming together to gather and think about the message of the Gospel.

Prayer and Liturgy:

Gather—have a quiet space with a Bible, a cross and a candle.

Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son , and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You can begin with an opening of what the Prayer and Liturgy is about:

Jesus talks about forgiveness and about how God is always ready to forgive us if we say sorry. In our lives we should try to forgive others if they say sorry to us. God, we are truly sorry for the things that we have done wrong. Forgive us and help us to try to forgive others as your son Jesus teaches us. Amen.

Word:

Read the Gospel Passage together. This week our Gospel reading is all about forgiveness and the unforgiving servant.

The Gospel reading according to Matthew:

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.”

This week we have been thinking about forgiveness

Respond:

Think about how you can respond to the Gospel reading. This may be by singing a hymn, saying prayers, reflecting on the reading.

You could reflect by:

We all need to be able to help one another to forgive and to think about how it feels when we forgive someone when they say sorry. The word 'sorry' means a lot and brings a new start. We need to be able to be able to forgive others just as God and Jesus do.

We think about the times where we may have said words which have upset someone without knowing, the times we have not shared our resources, the times we have said unkind words or the times where we have not thought about how our actions can upset and hurt others. At times saying sorry and asking for forgiveness can be the hardest task to carry out but we all need to find time to say sorry and to forgive one another.

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, think about if there is anyone whose forgiveness they would like. Perhaps you 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.

Respond to the Gospel by:

- Discussing what forgiveness means
- How can we forgive each other?
- How does it feel when we say sorry when we have hurt someone, or not followed an instruction?
- How can we say a prayer to ask forgiveness?

You can listen to a hymn about forgiveness:

- God forgave my sin in Jesus name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo3MGpcBC5M>
- Loving and Forgiving— <https://youtu.be/Hl1QOsDHR00>

End by praying the Our Father together as a family:

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 those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Make the sign of the cross together: **In the Name of the Father, and of the Son , and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Go Forth:

Think about how as a family you can carry out what is being asked in the Gospel.

- How can you show forgiveness to others?
- How can you share how to help others to be sorry and to show forgiveness?

How can you forgive and show forgiveness to others?