

Towards Plenary Council 2020-2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent 2019

*... his father saw him
and was moved with pity*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

From the Readings

Psalm 33/34:2-6. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad ...

Look towards him and be radiant;

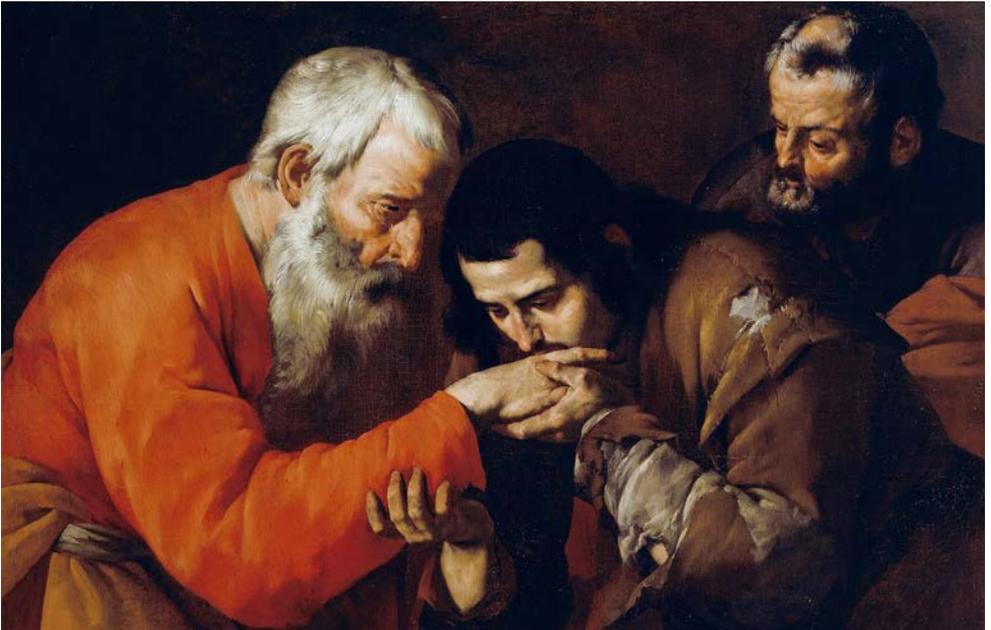
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. 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 ... be reconciled to God.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. 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 ... 'There was a man who had two sons ...

[The younger son] 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.



THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON 1630 - 'CALABRESE' IE. M. PRETI

Towards Plenary Council 2020-2021

Reflections

I have looked into your eyes with my eyes. I have put my heart near your heart.

Pope John XXIII to a prisoner in Rome, Dec. 25, 1958

The hunger for God can only be satisfied by a love that is face-to-face, person-to-person. It is only in the eyes of another that we can find the Icon of Christ. We must make the other person aware that we love him. If we do, he will know that Christ loves him. He will never hunger again.

Catherine de Hueck Doherty, 1896-1985

... we must not forget that people came to Christ from every kind of background.

Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger) *Jesus of Nazareth*, 2013

To follow Jesus is to be a wholemaker, essentially to love the world into new being and life.

Ilia Delio, *Making All Things New: Catholicity, Cosmology, Consciousness*

We must all believe in love and peace. We must believe in the power of love. We must recognise that our being itself is grounded in love; that is to say, that we come into being because we are loved and because we are meant to love others.

Thomas Merton, 'Honourable Reader', in *Bridges to Contemplative Living*, Seven, 17

For Thinking and Talking

- 1. From these readings and reflections**, what words, phrases and insights stand out for you?
- 2. Imagine** the feelings of the younger son when he returned home, sad, sorry, ashamed, and found his father coming to meet him with his arms held wide.
- 3. Remember** an experience of return and reconciliation in your life or a story which moved you.
- 4. Express** a hope or intention for the future.

Prayer

God of the unexpected,

God who crashes through our assumptions:
we worship you.

God, whose friends break through the boundaries

of preconceived ideas and rules:
we worship you.

God, whose life is written in bold strokes of love

beyond anything which we can predict or dream:
we come to worship you in spirit and in truth!

Come to us, O God of surprising grace.

Break into the places in our lives which we think are not worthy of your entry,
and show to us the measure of your love for us.

Break through into newness in all our life together, O God,
in the wonder of your transforming presence. Amen.

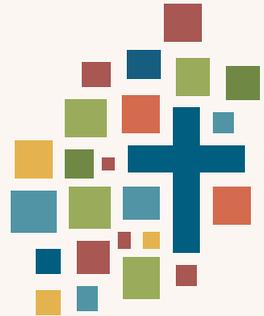
Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *In This Hour: Liturgies for Pausing*, 68-69

For Plenary Council 2020-2021

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.
O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia.
Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

(From the Plenary Council 2020 Prayer)



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

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