

FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 17th September 2026

Gather together

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

Loving Father, we come before You as a family. We thank You for the love that holds us together, even when we disagree, disappoint one another, or cause each other pain. Open our hearts to Your Word. Teach us to receive Your forgiveness and to offer that same forgiveness to one another.

Come, Holy Spirit, soften our hearts and fill our home with the mercy and peace of Christ. Amen.

Scripture – Matthew 18:21–35

Peter came to Jesus and asked:

"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

Jesus answered:

"I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

— Matthew 18:21–22

Jesus then tells the story of a servant who owes his master an enormous debt. The servant begs for mercy, and the master, moved with compassion, forgives the whole debt. Yet when the servant meets someone who owes him a

much smaller amount, he refuses to show mercy that he himself has received.

Reflect

Jesus challenges us to recognise a simple but challenging truth: **because we have received mercy, we are called to give mercy.**

Reflecting on this very passage from Matthew, Pope Leo XIV recently reminded Christians that Jesus calls us to forgive "beyond all limits, without measure." He said that forgiveness is indispensable for living in peace, because grudges and vengeance destroy relationships and divide families.

Pope Francis similarly taught that God's mercy is the model for our own forgiveness. Reflecting on the father and his two sons in Luke 15, he wrote that God is revealed as a Father who does not give up on His children but overcomes rejection with compassion and mercy.

This gives us an important question to carry into our own family:

If our heavenly Father continues to show mercy to us, can we learn to show mercy to one another?



Family Reflection

Let us be quiet for a moment and think about these questions:

Is there someone in our family whom I need to forgive?

Is there someone from whom I need to ask forgiveness?

Am I holding onto an old hurt, argument, disappointment, or resentment?

Have I been expecting others to forgive my mistakes while finding it difficult to forgive theirs?

Where is God asking me to take the first step towards peace?

Pause for a moment of silence.



Let us pray

Loving Father,

You welcome us with open arms,
as the father welcomed home the prodigal son.
Thank You for loving us unconditionally,
even when we fail or wander from You.
Help us always to trust in Your mercy and return
to Your loving embrace.

Lord Jesus,

You taught us to forgive not just seven times,
but **"seventy times seven"** (Matthew 18:22).
Give us the grace to forgive one another from the
heart, to let go of anger and hurt,
and to ask forgiveness when we have caused pain.

Holy Spirit,

fill our family with patience, kindness and mercy.
Help us to see one another through the loving eyes
of the Father.

May our home always be a place of forgiveness,
where we can begin again, love one another,
and live together in Your peace.

Amen.

Our Family Action – "Seventy Times Seven"

This week, each member of the family will choose
one act of forgiveness or reconciliation.

It may be saying, *"I'm sorry."*

It may be saying, *"I forgive you."*

It may be letting go of something we keep bringing
up from the past.

It may be sending a message or making a phone call
to someone from whom we have become distant.

Or it may simply be praying sincerely for someone
who has hurt us.

And whenever forgiveness feels difficult, we will
remember the Father in the story of the Prodigal
Son – **watching, waiting, running towards His child,
and welcoming him home.**

Closing Prayer

Lord, make our home a place of mercy.

When we fail, help us begin again.

When we hurt, help us heal.

When we are wrong, help us ask forgiveness.

When we are hurt, help us forgive.

And may we always remember that before we
learned how to forgive, **You loved and forgave us
first.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.

Amen.