

# Living FAITH

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land  
and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A Primary

### “When Someone Sins”

#### WE GATHER

Patient and Forgiving God;  
We know that there are times when we make poor choices,  
and do wrong against You and those around us.  
Help keep our ears and hearts open so that if we are corrected,  
we can take responsibility for our actions.  
We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.

***Amen***

#### WE LISTEN

***A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (18:15-20)***

#### When Someone Sins

If one of my followers sins against you, go and point out what was wrong. But do it in private, just between the two of you. If that person listens, you have won back a follower. But if that one refuses to listen, take along one or two others. The Scriptures teach that every complaint must be proven true by two or more witnesses. If the follower refuses to listen to them, report the matter to the church. Anyone who refuses to listen to the church must be treated like an unbeliever or a tax collector.

I promise you that God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth, but he will not allow anything you don’t allow. I promise that when any two of you on earth agree about something you are praying for, my Father in heaven will do it for you. Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you.



For courage,  
to do admit when we are wrong  
and to seek forgiveness.  
***Lord, hear us.***

For hope,  
that we can learn from our mistakes and  
make better choices next time.  
***Lord, hear us.***

For faith,  
that God will help us  
with our decision making.  
***Lord, hear us.***

For our own needs...  
***Lord, hear us.***

# Living FAITH



## WE REFLECT

No one really likes being corrected or told they've done something wrong. You know, no one even really likes having to tell someone that they have made a poor choice, hurt another person, or broken the rules. It's not a nice feeling for anyone. But no one is perfect. No one is their absolute best self 100% of the time. Every now and then we can forget to think of others or speak politely. We might be tired or had a really bad day and are less patient, sharing, kind or loving than we realise. Sometimes we can be selfish, rude or even mean. That is all just part of growing up. As much as we might try, sometimes we are just not our best self... and that's ok. But... that's right... there is a "but". It's understandable to mess up sometimes **but** you must take responsibility for your words and actions, particularly if people are telling you that you are being hurtful. It's also ok to tell someone you care about that they are not doing the right thing... **but** (there's that but again) you need to say it kindly and respectfully so that they are more likely to listen and hopefully change their behaviour.

This is what Jesus is saying in today's Gospel reading. Jesus is encouraging us to take responsibility for our actions and words and that while sometimes it may be hard to admit we are in the wrong, it's important to listen to our friends and family when they correct us. Most importantly Jesus is reminding us that He gets it. He gets that we will mess up sometimes, but we should gather around each other... inviting Jesus into the group too of course, help build each other up, and help each other be the best version of ourselves.

**How might you adjust your attitude or behaviour to be a better version of yourself today?**

## WE ARE SENT FORTH

Jesus, Our Biggest Supporter,  
We give thanks for all the times You help us be the best version of ourselves.  
Help us to know Your voice,  
as we listen to the Good News and proclaim it for others.  
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Son of the Living God.  
**Amen.**

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

***"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever  
come to you without leaving happier"***

- *Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version

