



The water that I will give them will
become a spring of water within,
welling up to eternal life.
JOHN 4:14

Parent Prayer Sheet – 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time:

On the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A), the Gospel features Jesus' familiar parable of the two sons: one who initially refuses his father's request to work in the vineyard but later changes his mind and goes, and another who eagerly says "yes" but never follows through. For parents raising primary school-aged children, this reading provides a wonderful, down-to-earth opening to discuss the true meaning of integrity and the reality that actions speak louder than words. Children at this stage are exceptionally perceptive; they quickly notice when promises are broken, and they understand inherently that a person's character is defined by what they actually do, rather than what they merely promise to do.

Jesus uses this simple story to remind families that living a life of faith is not just about saying the right things, knowing our prayers by heart, or offering quick, polite agreements when asked to help. Instead, it is about genuine follow-through and a willingness to turn our intentions into concrete deeds of love and responsibility. In a busy household, this translates to everyday moments—like a child who grumbles about being asked to clean up their toys or help a sibling, but ultimately chooses to do it with a good heart, rather than someone who cheerfully agrees to help out and then completely forgets. By reflecting on this Gospel together, parents can guide their children to see that choosing to do what is right, even when it requires a change of heart or extra effort, is at the very heart of following God.

Prayer:

Gracious and Merciful God,

You call each of us into your vineyard, inviting us to labour with open hands and willing hearts. Forgive us for the times our promises have outpaced our actions, and when our initial reluctance or distraction has kept us from doing your work. Grant us the grace of true conversion—the humility to change our minds, align our wills with yours, and follow through on our commitments.

Strengthen us in our daily responsibilities, that our lives may bear the authentic fruit of justice, integrity, and active love. When we are comfortable, stir our conscience; when we are weary, renew our resolve to serve others as Christ served us. **Amen.**

