

## PRAYER FOR HOME

Listen to these words from the Gospel of John:

I give you a new command: Love each other.

You must love each other as I have loved you.

**Imagine this is God's message for your family.**

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud.

Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not become angry easily.

Love does not remember wrongs done against it.

Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices over the truth.

Love patiently accepts all things.

(Replace the word love with your own name, then instead of the word 'love' replace it with Jesus.)



## HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:

- Have family chats about choices you can make to love
- Encourage your child to remember the importance of love
- Teach your child that doing something wrong on purpose, is more serious than making a mistake
- Help your child to own up to what they've done
- Encourage your child to ask 'What would Jesus do?'
- Continue to positively build up your child in love

## OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, help us to support our children to grow in love and goodness.

May we teach them more by our actions than our words.

Give us the courage to model how to say sorry.

Help us to show our children something of God the Father's constant love for us.

As we journey together help us

to remind each other in our family

that love of God and love of each other are one and the same.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.



## SHARE WITH THE PERSON BESIDE YOU:

- What does this prayer say to you about your role as a parent?
- What does it teach us about God?

**Parish Parent Helps 2: Preparing for Reconciliation**

## MAKING CHOICES

- *Can you think about the many choices you have made today?*
- *Choosing to get out of bed, get the kids ready, making breakfast.....*
- *Choosing what to wear*
- *Choosing to be patient or understanding or kind or helpful*
- *Even choosing to be here tonight*



*This time of preparation is an opportunity to have positive conversations with your child about the choices we make. Everyday we make all sorts of choices, some right, some wrong.*

*When we choose to put ourselves first at the expense of others, it can lead to sin.*

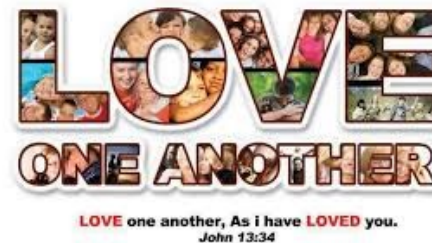
*When we choose to go against what we know is right—it can lead to sin.*

*When we choose to ignore the needs of others—it can lead to sin.*

*Sin is when we choose to walk away from God—the God who gives us life.*

## TEACH YOUR CHILD IN THIS YEAR

1. *To think about the choices they make everyday*
2. *That we can make choices for love, to be kind, helpful and understanding*
3. *That sometimes we do not make good choices, and this can hurt others and ourselves*
4. *That Jesus calls us to love another as he loved us*
5. *That when we are not sure about what choice to make we can ask 'What would Jesus do?'*
6. *We can say sorry for the times we forget to love*
7. *We can start afresh when we celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation*
8. *We can remember the times in the day when we made good choices and give thanks to God for helping us*
9. *We can remember the times in the day when our choices were less good and ask for God's help.*
10. *All God asks of us is that we love one another.*



*Why do you think these messages are so important for your child in this year?*