

My Lord Jesus placed this on my heart to share with you this week / So these words are from the second half of my 30 Sunday homily.

-I have had recent conversations with this theme.

-A few friends and parishioners shared with me that some of their children are struggling or have left the faith.

-A mother wrote about raising her children in the Church / Gave them a Catholic Education / Took them to Mass / Taught them the faith and prayers / Yet some were currently not going, or had left the church.

-This mother mentioned the Garden of Eden / Adam and Eve rejected their relationship with God their Father / They still had the freedom to accept or reject the Father's Love.

-One of my first Greek icons gives us hope / Shows Jesus raising Adam and Eve from their coffins on Holy Saturday morning before His Sunday Resurrection.

-I know amazing parents who are praying for a child who has left the faith / Like this mother they did all the right things / Others parents lament we didn't do anything or enough / Don't beat yourselves up / Your job now is praying for your children and family.

-Remember / God gave us free will / Today some of our family may not be practicing the faith / It hurts.

-Let me give you parents some hope:

-My mother, in her imperfections, prayed for me when I was not practicing my faith / I am thankful for her prayers / For not giving up on me.

-We will not have a life free from suffering / Being a friend of Christ means He is with you in the midst of the storm. He is with you amidst pains and suffering / Jesus died for you, He died for your children / He died for our families.

-Jesus is seeking your lost children now / Offer this Mass for them / Ultimately leave your children in the hands of Jesus. / He is their Savior / We are merely His prayer warriors / So don't beat yourself up with what-ifs!

Like St. Monica praying for St. Augustine / Like my mother praying for me / You may or may not see the fruit in this life / But Our Lord always hears the prayers of a humble parent / Give your children daily to Jesus / And like St. Paul / Having run the race / Know we are in the Hands of our loving Savior.

-I am writing to you as your pastor and as a completed Evangelical Catholic because of the prayers of a humble mother.

**Vivat Jesus,
Father Vic Gournas**