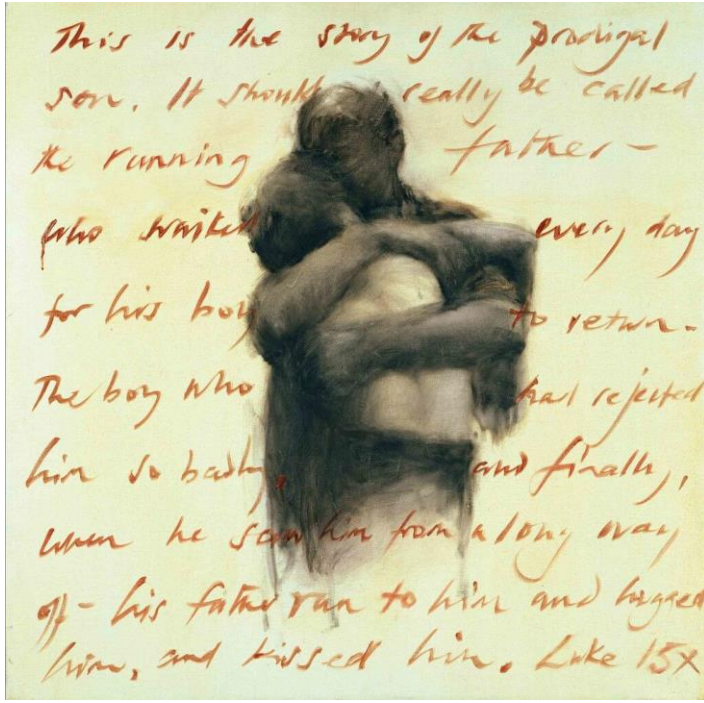


Thought for the Day – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

They are back!



*The prodigal son by Charlie Mackasey*

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

- Luke 15:20

Most of us have seen in various films, the scenes where someone 'goes off the rails', usually depicted by their house in clutter, sink full of unwashed dishes, takeaway bags all over the place, half empty bottles tripping them up, answerphone machine full, and they look like they haven't slept or washed for a year. We root for them, waiting for the turn around point, often triggered by a challenging word from a friend, a thought from a stranger, or the realization they have strayed too far. Que camera shots of the bottles being picked up, dishes stacked in dishwasher, a fresh coffee pot is made, telephone, texts, emails sent, a shower is taken. They are back! It might seem cheesy, but they can be powerful story telling, as we can all probably identify with that in some

way!

Similar things happen in our faith journey or spiritual life. We can drift away from God, or feel like we are drifting away from Him. We may not intend to do so, sometimes we are not even aware its happening until we see the clutter and other times we are, but do not want to stop it. There may be all kinds of reasons this happens. To some degree, we can identify with the prodigal son, one of Jesus' most well known stories - in [Luke 15:11-32](#)

When the son comes to his sense and heads back to his father (who represents God), how far does he have to travel? Look again at verse 20. While he is a long way from home, his father meets him, and greets him.

**When we drift away from God, God drifts with us.** So it means, that is is only ever one step back to Him. What a loving, generous, forgiving, faithful, kind, compassionate God, Jesus taught our heavenly Father to be!