



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 2025

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

You can share a variety of liturgies linked to this week's gospel with your child at home.

You can find weekly Gospel Liturgies from The Mark 10 Mission by clicking on the link [here](#).

You can also share the Children's Liturgy from Redemptorist Publications with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph by clicking this link [here](#).

Check this newsletter regularly for other links to liturgies designed for children.

Each week, you can download a weekly Bible verse from *The God Who Speaks* website.

[Click here](#) to access the Weekly Bible Verse archive.



One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" So Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers."' So he got up and started back to his father.



"He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms round his son, and kissed him. 'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' But the father called his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.' And so the feasting began.

"In the meantime the elder son was out in the field. On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him, 'What's going on?' 'Your brother has come back home,' the servant answered, 'and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.'

The elder brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged him to come in. But he answered his father, 'Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave, and I have never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat for me to have a feast with my friends! But this son of yours wasted all your property on prostitutes, and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!' 'My son,' the father answered, 'you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.'"

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission)



What do you remember from the reading today?

Jesus was spending time with people who were not very popular in his time. He spent time with tax collectors, and those who others thought were doing wrong. Jesus sat down and ate with them.

Some other people complained and so Jesus told them a story. Why do you think he told them this story? Jesus often told stories to help people better know and understand God, so what happened in the story he told us today?

A man had two sons. What did the younger son do? He took his half of his father's money and went off and spent it all.

What happened when the son had run out of money?

There was a famine – which means that many people were hungry because there wasn't enough food. What job did the son do to try to earn some money?

The son started to look after someone else's pigs. He was so hungry that he would have liked to eat the pigs' food, but no one would let him have it. How do you think he must have felt to know that no one was willing to share with him?

So the son set off home to see his father – to say sorry and to say that he would work as a servant in his house. How do you think the son was feeling?

How do you feel when you know you have done something wrong? Is it always easy to say sorry?

When he was a long way off, the father saw his son and rushed out to meet him, giving him a big hug. How do you think the father felt to see his son again after all this time?

How did the son expect his father to feel? But what did the father do after the son said sorry?

The father threw a big party! He was so happy that his son had returned to him, safe and sound. The father forgave his son for all that he had done and invited everyone to a big meal to celebrate.

The elder brother was not so pleased. Have you ever been cross with your brother or sister or a good friend?

Why do you think the elder brother was angry that his father was throwing a party? He was upset because he had done everything right, but his father had never thrown him a party. He was jealous of how much the father loved his younger brother.

But what did the father say? The father reminded the elder brother that he loved him very much and that everything that he had would belong to him one day.

God loves us all. When we say sorry, God forgives us for the things that we have done wrong, just like the father in this story forgives his son. God is always happy when we come back to him.

How does it feel to know that God always loves you?

Jesus shared food with all different sorts of people. And the father in Jesus' story welcomed his son back to share in the feast, even though he had not always done the right thing.

God welcomes everyone to the feast. It doesn't matter who we are, where we come from or what we've done, we all have the right to share in the food that God has given for all people.

And we have to do our best to make sure that all people can get their fair share as well.

So perhaps this week, we can do our best to say sorry for the times when we haven't done the right thing, especially when we haven't shared very well with others?

But let's also make a change, let's try to share more with others and work together so that all people are able to join in the feast of good food that God gives for us all.

Art can help
bring the
Gospel to
life for
children.



You may find the
website [Christian Art](#) enjoyable to
explore with your child. Each day they
share artwork linked to the daily
Gospel.

**You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart
Mark 12:28b-34**

**The Boating Party,
Painted by Mary Cassatt (1844–
1926),
Painted in 1894,
Oil on canvas
© National Gallery of Art,
Washington**



We can worship and pray through
Music. For this week's Gospel, enjoy
listening to both traditional and
contemporary worship music!



Traditional: ['My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less'](#) by
Edward Mote

Traditional: ['When Jesus Wept'](#) by William Billings
Contemporary: ['Rise Up \(Lazarus\)'](#) by Cain



You can now access the
Ten:Ten Parent Portal
at home with the details
below.

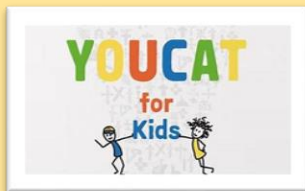
**Ten:Ten
Resources**

Username: st-michaels-
tw15

Password: thames-orange

Parent Portal:

www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal



YouCat is a guide to the Catechism of the Catholic Church for children. It is an easy read and a user friendly guide for parents and carers to support their children.

You can find out more about YouCat at www.youcat.org



Catholic Social Teaching:

Which principle do you think the gospel teaching best relate to this week?

**DIGNITY SOLIDARITY THE COMMON GOOD THE OPTION FOR THE POOR PEACE
CARE FOR CREATION THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND PARTICIPATION**



*This week's Gospel activity sheet from **CAFOD**:*



Fourth Sunday of Lent

*"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity."
Luke 15:20*

Different perspectives

Assign the characters of the father, older son, younger son to different family members (you could add additional characters, such as one of the servants if you wish) Take turns retelling the story from the point of view of your character.

Decorate around the prayer below and share it with others.

Mothering Sunday prayer

Loving God,
Thank you for mothers and all the people who care for us.
Thank you especially for *[add your intentions here]*.
May your love be present in every home
and every heart throughout our world.
Amen.



St. Michael Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Excellence · Enrichment · Enjoyment



L

Lent begins on the 5th March, marking a season of reflection, prayer, and preparation for Easter. It is a time for Catholics to renew their faith through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, drawing closer to Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Traditionally, the 40 days of Lent mirror Jesus' time of fasting in the desert, encouraging the faithful to embrace self-discipline and spiritual growth.

E

The day before Lent, Shrove Tuesday, (popularly known as Pancake Day) is a time of preparation and repentance. The name 'Shrove' comes from the old English word shriven, meaning to confess sins and receive absolution. Many celebrate the day with pancakes, symbolising the use of rich ingredients before the Lenten fast begins.

N

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It is a day of repentance and reflection, where Catholics are invited to examine their hearts and commit to a season of spiritual renewal. During Mass or a liturgy, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the faithful in the shape of a cross, with the words, 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' This symbolises the mortality of human life and the call to humility, repentance, and conversion.

T



OBSERVING THE SEASON OF LENT IN SCHOOL

Liturgical Year



- 1st March – St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales (Feast)
- 4th March – St Casimir
- 7th March – Sts Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
- 8th March – St John of God, Religious
- 9th March – St Frances of Rome, Religious
- 17th March – St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland (Feast)
- 19th March – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
- 25th March – The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)

Cycle of Prayer

During Ordinary Time (Winter), i.e. up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

- Peace on Earth;
- Openness to the Word of God;
- Christian Unity;
- The Sick and Those Who Care for Them;
- Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it;
- The Unemployed.

Other Religions

- **Between the 28th February – 1st March** – Ramadan begins
 - A sacred month of fasting, prayer, and reflection observed by Muslims worldwide.
- **14th March** – Purim (Judaism)
 - A joyful Jewish festival commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people as told in the Book of Esther.
- **29th March** – Holi (Hinduism)
 - A festival celebrating the arrival of spring, marked by joyful gatherings and the throwing of coloured powders.

OTHER RELIGIONS/WORLDVIEWS:

FOR POWERPOINTS REGARDING KEY OTHER RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS SEE [HERE](#).