

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE

NEWSLETTER



27 March 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Lost and found

What's the message of the story of the Prodigal Son? Is it repentance? If so, we would have to admit that the young man's repentance was motivated almost entirely by his own needs. Is it forgiveness? The father never said a word about forgiveness or absolution or "*I'm glad you learned your lesson.*" Even when the older brother whined, the father said nothing to excuse the younger one's behaviour. He simply pointed out that everything he had belonged to the elder as well.

Both readings reflect on the situation of the young degenerate who left home and blew his father's fortune on what he thought would be the good life. The young man really did bring reproach upon himself as he all but sold himself into slavery.

Perhaps the humblest thing he ever said was, "*I no longer deserve to be called your son.*" But even that statement didn't quite clear the bar for truth. "*I no longer deserve*" presumed that once he had deserved the status of being a member of the family. In truth, he never could have done anything to earn that prestige. It was an accidental, unmerited condition of the good fortune of being born into that family whose prosperous father loved him.

None of us have any claim to have earned life or any of the privileges or talents that come



with our birth. Our life and our talents are free, unmerited gifts.

The parable we call the Prodigal Son describes an incurably philanthropic God who knows that love can never be commanded. Rather, while love must be awaited, God responds to a little love with overwhelming, unrelenting, unrepayable generosity and joy.

It seems that this parable and accompanying readings invite us to quit concentrating on ourselves and our dutiful or errant ways. When we escape narcissism of introspective guilt or righteousness, we can "*taste and see*" the feast thrown by the unrelenting God who longs for us, patiently waiting to lavish us with love.

Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 27 March - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.00am
11.00am

Tuesday 29 March - FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Wednesday 30 March - FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Thursday 31 March – FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Friday 1 April – FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

7.00pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00pm

Stations of the Cross from 6.15pm

CONFESSIONS: After Mass or by appointment.

OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

Parish Priest: Fr Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Office (Wed 9.00am - 12.00pm)

Parish Administrator – Suzanne Quinn

General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French

Email: mail@matthewfrench.net

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Is 66: 10-11

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling
breast.*

Gospel Acclamation - Lk15:18

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!
I will leave this place and go to my father
and say: 'Father, I have sinned against
heaven and against you.' Praise and
honour to you, Lord Jesus!*

Communion Antiphon

*You must rejoice, my son, for your brother
was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.*

PARISH NEWS

EASTER DAY COLLECTION: The Easter collection supports our parish priest directly, in grateful thanks for his dedication, service and witness throughout the year. If you would like to give a gift to support Father Leslie in his mission and ministry this Easter, please visit this website: <https://bit.ly/3JqFeUO>

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER: Have you read our latest vocations newsletter? Download a copy by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/3tk4JBv>

DON BOSCO BOYS CAMP - 24 to 30 July 2022: At St. Cassians, Kintbury, near Newbury £220.00. Lots of activities, sports, competitions, outings and games. We will also celebrate Mass together. For more information, please email: dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

BISHOP PHILIP'S PASTORAL LETTER: Please read the Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip in which he asks us to *'bombard heaven with petitions for peace'* and shares ideas on what we can do at this time to support our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Copies are available at the back of the church and on our website.

BRIDGE CLUB: Every Monday from 1.30pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome, including those who have never played before. It's a great chance to meet up with old friends and make some new ones.



UKRAINE: The Caritas website is a good source of information for those wanting to know how the Catholic Church and our Diocese are responding to the crisis in Ukraine at this time. It will be updated regularly as information comes through about its Ukrainian refugee work and the Homes for Ukraine scheme. <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE: If you can help with refreshments after the 11.00am Sunday Mass, please contact Suzanne in the office.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY: This is for the Clergy Assistance Fund that supports the invaluable work of the Department for Clergy Team. To donate, please click on the following link. Thank you for your support. <https://bit.ly/3JBIMDM>

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

You can donate directly into the bank account:

**PRCDTR Bournemouth
Our Lady Immaculate**

Sort code: 309304 Account: 00875075

Thank you for your continued support.

PRAYERS PLEASE

Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially:

Teresa Wraith,
Win Sheridan, Kathleen Wood,
Phillip Rockford, Germain McAulay,
Geoffrey Dixon, Joe Bonnici,
Marjorie Lee

The Prodigal Son

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, *"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."* So to them Jesus addressed this parable:

"A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his items and set off to a distant country where he spent his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent it all a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need.

"So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine



was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.'

"Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called a servant and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'

The father said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"