

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.”

And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

The Gospel of the Lord

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Loyola Press

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.



Parish Bulletin

The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

29/30 March 2025

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS

The story of the prodigal son confirms Jesus' words that there is great rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner. The joyful and lavish banquet prepared by the father to celebrate his son's return is a symbol of the heavenly banquet. In this story the older son cuts himself off from the banquet. Unable to forgive like his father, he chooses to stay outside in his own private hell. May we know the joy of forgiveness and the joy of forgiving.

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS

Heavenly father, we are about to offer this wonderful memorial of the passion and death of your Son. Bless our Priest as he stands in the person of Christ and makes present for us the great sacrifice of Calvary.

Bless our Ministers here present today—our ministers of the Eucharist, our readers, our Altar Servers, our musicians and ushers. When we reflect on the magnificence of these Sacred Ministries, we are somewhat overawed at our calling. But also we are overjoyed that You have asked us to stand at Your altar and serve You.

Help us to be reverent and to be faithful to our responsibilities. May this Eucharist that we are about to offer be a bond of unity and a sacrament of love for our people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33:2-7

Response:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
From all my terrors he set me free. **R**

3. Look towards him and be radiant;
Let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord

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Fr Roy John Elavumkal SMM
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Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

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WHS Officer
Angela Girolamo – Thursday

Sacristan
Sundays: Terence Yeow
& Roger Worth

Parish Office Hours
Tue to Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm
Ph: (08) 8431 6932
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

Mass Times
Sunday 9:30 am
Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30 pm
Tuesday to Friday 9:15 am

Confessions
Saturday 6:00 pm

Rosary
Tues to Fri 8:45am

Adoration of the Eucharist
Friday before Mass 8:30am

Novena to St. Joseph
Wednesday after Mass

St. Joseph's Primary School
Principal - Adrian Grbin
Ph: 8217 8300

Knights of the Southern Cross
Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270

Parish Pastoral Council
Chair – Alan Tyson
Parish Finance Council
Chair -Edward Konieczny

Child Safe Contact Person
Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

Vinnies Assistance Hotline
1300 729 202 - 9:00am to 4:30pm

ROSTERS— 5/6 Apr 2025 Fifth Sunday of LENT	
Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Anne Marie Platten Chris Platten Giulia Giuliani
9:30am	Sandy Mazzarolo Thilini Silva Stephanie Roach
Children's Liturgy	Antonetta Bartley Angela Mealey
Count team	Alan Tyson Denise Rutt Paul Roocke Danielle Roocke
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong Sarita Ingham and volunteers
All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that Mass	

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	22/23 Mar 2025
Open Plate	\$321.00
Planned Giving	\$410.00
PARISH TOTAL	\$731.00

This week's contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund: \$574.40

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA** Sharing the value that no human being should have their dignity or freedom compromised. Every person should have access to the goods and resources of society so that they can have fulfilling lives. Thank you. **For more information: caritas@adelaide.catholic.org.au or phone 8210 8172.**

PROJECT COMPASSION

Chinese Community Mass 6th April 2025
The Chinese Catholic Community of SA is having their monthly community mass on Sunday 6th Apr 2025 at St. Joseph's Church. The Archbishop is coming to celebrate the Mass at 12:30pm followed by shared lunch. Rosary prayer starts at 12:10pm. For more information, please contact Louisa 0422 079 534 (by text).


Let's pray together

Please remember in your prayers
We pray for those listed and all the deceased relatives and friends of our Parishioners.
For the Repose of the Soul:
Death Anniversary:
Madeleine Marciano
Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; present them to God the Most High.

Sick:
We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish and our relatives and friends who are unwell.

If you know of sick or elderly parishioners who are house-bound or in care and would appreciate a visit, please phone and leave a message with the parish office.

Pope Francis @pontifex

 Even if our past seems burdensome, complicated, and perhaps even ruined, we can always give it to God and set out anew on our journey. God is merciful, and He always waits for us!

HOLY WEEK 2025

Palm Sunday 13th April
9:30am Mass

Holy Thursday 17th April
6:30pm Mass of the Last Supper
Private adoration until 9:00pm

Good Friday 18th April
11:00am Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday 19th April
6:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 20th April
9:30am Mass of the Resurrection

Confessions:
Tue 15th April— 8:30am & 9:45am
Wed 16th April—8:30am & 9:45am

PARISH NOTICES

Transfer of Fr. Roy John
There is a significant transition for both Fr. Roy John Elavumkal and Fr. Anthony Adimai. Fr Roy's new role as the parish priest of Northern Light Parish, Nuriootpa, Barossa Valley will surely be a new chapter filled with blessings and opportunities for ministry. Meanwhile, Fr. Anthony Adimai taking on the additional responsibility of St Joseph's Church Tranmere. May God bless them abundantly in their new missions. This will take place after the Easter, on Thursday 24 April 2025.

Tap & Go Donation Machines
We now have two Tap & Go donation machines available for your convenience. You can use your card to make donation to the church by selecting one of the pre-set amounts: \$5, \$10 or \$20. Simply press the desired amount and place your card on top of the machines. If you wish to contribute more, please press OTHER button and enter your preferred donation amount. Your generous support helps sustain our parish and its mission. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. God bless you.

Volunteers for Holy Week / Easter Masses
The schedule of the Holy Week has been finalised and published on the bulletin an notice boards. If you are available and wish to participate in a specific role, kindly fill up the roster sheet at the entrance of the church. Your support is appreciated.

ARCHDIOCESE EVENTS

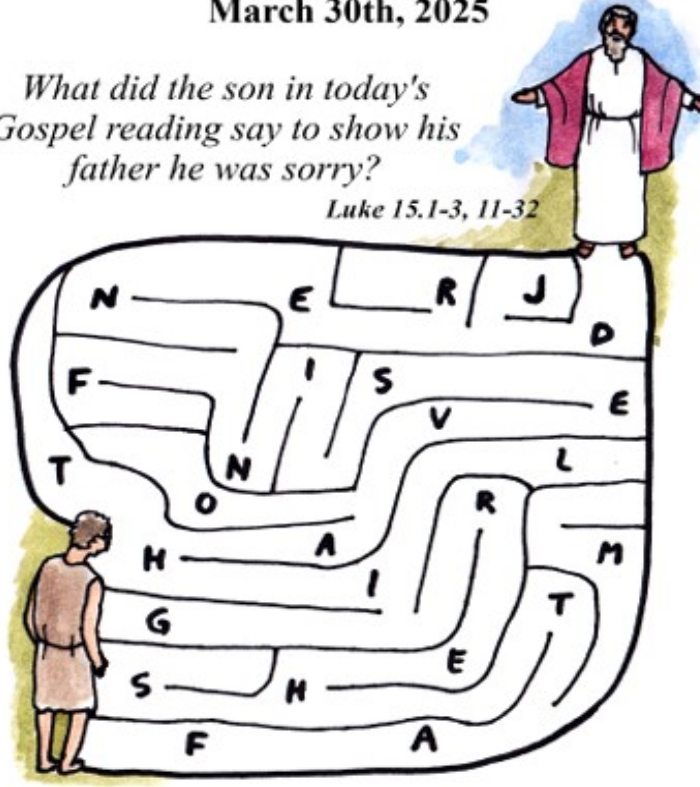
Cross Road Forum - The Church and Politics
With a Federal election imminent, we ask: "What might the Church say to Politicians on public issues, and how can this be done most effectively?" Speakers for this topic are Alex Dihton, MP and Kevin Liston.
When: Wednesday April 2, 7.30pm – 9pm. Coffee and chat to follow.
Where: The Sebastian Centre, The Monastery, 15 Cross Road, Glen Osmond.

'Lift Up' Good Friday Night Walk - A Journey of Reflection & Hope
Good Friday, April 18, - you are invited to walk together in the spirit of a pilgrimage, inspired by the 2025 Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope. This journey is an opportunity to step away from the everyday and reflect. Our Good Friday night walk is a meaningful way to connect with the Easter story, each other, and the deeper themes of resilience, forgiveness and hope. This event is open to all ages, however it has been inspired and designed with young people in mind by COYYA (Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults). Our journey begins at The Monastery in Urrbrae at 7.30pm. From there, we will walk towards the city. Along the route, we will pause for reflection at St Raphael's in Parkside before continuing towards our final destination - St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. The walk is roughly 6.5km total. Please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CZHVV> to secure your spot as well as nominating for transportation provided from the Cathedral back to The Monastery should you require it. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/liftup2025>

The Kids' Bulletin


Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 30th, 2025

What did the son in today's Gospel reading say to show his father he was sorry?
Luke 15.1-3, 11-32




As you go through the maze, use only the letters in the right path to fill in the blanks:

The Son who was Sorry

 Today's Gospel reading tells us about God's forgiveness. We are like the son who ran away and wasted all his money whenever we don't use our gifts or talents to serve God or others.

God is like the father in this story. He lets the younger son do whatever he wants, but he loves him even when he chooses to be bad. All he wants is for his son to come home and be sorry. He is ready and waiting to forgive the prodigal son.

God is waiting to forgive us too, in the sacrament of Confession. He wants us to be sorry for our sins and tell Him we are sorry so He can take them away. Try to make sure you go to confession before Easter so your soul will be clean and ready for the great celebration!



Answers to Front Page: Father I have sinned. Answers to Cross-Word: ACROSS: 1 this 3 let 6 its 8 humble 9 praise 10 that 13 from 16 name 17 together 18 answered DOWN: 2 soul 4 times 5 jointly 7 set 10 taste 11 letters 12 see 14 on 15 make

www.thekidsbulletin.com