



27 March – 6 April 2022 • Faith 24/7

Outrageous love

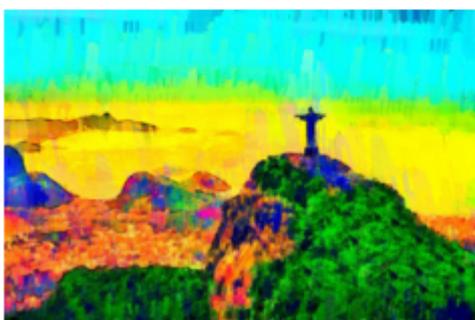
 **Luke 15.1-3,11b-32**

In one of Jesus' best-known stories, a son runs away looking for the high life. Down on his luck, he decides to return home and apologise. Despite the hurt, his father immediately forgives him. An older brother resents this welcome.

Now read **Luke 15.1-3,11b-32** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

The week of Mothering Sunday is a good time to reflect on the extraordinary love that good parents offer to their children. This father's love is greater than either of his sons could have imagined. The love God offers is more welcoming and forgiving than we can imagine.



What could you do as an expression of outrageous love?



Use bricks and construction toys – whatever you have – to design and build a farm. Add some workers using e.g. Playmobile™ or Lego™ figures. Talk about the jobs they might do. You could use your farmyard to explore this week's Bible story.

Candle Prayers

You will need: birthday candles – used ones will do; one big candle; a cake; matches or a lighter.

Spend some time together, telling one another what you love about them. For each appreciation, light a candle. People who don't want to speak out can just light candles (supervise children). When people have run out of ideas, or all the candles are lit, blow them out (they don't burn for long); then light the large candle and say this prayer:

God, your love for us is bigger than we can ever understand: brighter than the brightest star, deeper than the deepest sea...*(add your own comparatives)*. Help us all to love like this, to love our family, to love our friends, to love those we don't know and even to love those we don't like! **Amen.**

Hands-on Lent



This week's Gospel reading is about God's outrageous love (the story Jesus told that we sometimes call 'the prodigal son'). Have you ever given – or received – amazing and even outrageous love? What did that feel like? Add to your Hands-on Lent bowl something heart-shaped to remind you of this story. It could be cards, or badges, or sweets (Love hearts) – something that will speak to you of love when you share them out on Easter Day.

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A new GAME

You will need: A4 paper, pencil and crayons; counters and a die.

Make a game based on Snakes and ladders. Draw lines on a sheet of A4 paper to create a 32-square grid. In this game, you start at the top left and finish at the bottom right. Draw a loving parent in the starting square. Number the squares and put some hazards and benefits in a few (e.g. your clothes are stolen while you are swimming: go back three squares). Create some slides down which players fall – with names (e.g. the slide of hunger; the slide of despair). Add one long ladder – The Ladder of Overwhelming Love – which extends from the final square back to the start, to be welcomed by the loving parent. Decorate your board as you choose. Play like Snakes and ladders. On reaching the final square, players must roll a 6 to go up The Ladder of Overwhelming Love. Who could you invite to play?

PARTY PLAN

Instead of one of your normal meals this week, imagine that a long-lost family member or friend arrives out of the blue. Work together to create a 'party' out of just what you have – celebration, decorations, food, perhaps a present. Enjoy together what you have created.



Hosting Ukrainian Refugees

The government is facilitating a scheme where UK residents may offer up empty homes, or rooms in their home, to accommodate Ukrainian refugees. The Worcester South East Team would like to be a sponsoring organisation to help match refugees with appropriate available accommodation in our parishes. If you would like to register your interest to host (and are able to do so for a minimum of 6 months), please let Rebecca know in Team Office. We will keep a list in the office for now, until such time as the government opens up this stage of the scheme. There is no commitment yet, it is simply for our information.

If you would like to offer alternative help or support the Ukrainian refugees when they arrive in Worcester (it is not just accommodation which is needed there will be needs such as transport to appointments, a place for refugees to meet up with friends, refreshments at such events, baby equipment etc) and / or have already registered to offer accommodation, please could you email worc4ukr@gmail.com giving an idea of what you might be able to offer/ what help you may need.



Welcome! Today is Mothering Sunday.
 We welcome Bishop Martin to lead us in worship.

Quiz Night at St Mark's Church Hall Saturday 2nd April 7.00 for 7.30 start.
£3.50 per person – Come as a team or join one of ours.
Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Accompanied under 16's Free.

Daily Readings for week commencing 28 th March 2022		
Monday	Exodus 2: 11-22	Hebrew 9: 1-14
Tuesday	Exodus 2: 23-3:20	Hebrews 9: 15-end
Wednesday	Exodus 4: 1-23	Hebrews 10: 1-18
Thursday	Exodus 4: 27-6:1	Hebrews 10: 19-25
Friday	Exodus 6: 2-13	Hebrews 10: 26-end
Saturday	Exodus 7: 8-end	Hebrews 11: 1-16

Pray for those in need... Please pray for the people of Ukraine...for those in need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Shane, Bryn, Katie-Lou... ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time...Dennis, Pauline and Kath***