



30 March 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) (Year C)

Reflection on the Gospel

Who is the hero of the story? What should its title be? Some call it the parable of the Powerless Father, for the father is powerless to do anything but welcome his son. Clearly the principal message of the parable is that we can count on God's forgiveness, whatever we do.

The contrast is also between the two sons. The younger insults his father: all he thinks about is his inheritance, as though he wished his father already dead. All the same, the father is eagerly on the watch, and forgets all his dignity to run and welcome his returning son. And to persuade the elder son to join in the party, the father even leaves his dinner-guests at table, going out into the field to urge the jealous elder brother to join in. Forgiveness and love is his whole motivation. The elder son responds to his father with insults ('That son of yours' he says), inventing guesses about sexual loose-living. It is a splendid example of Luke's delicate, witty and subtle characterisation.

Which brother comes out of the story best? Have you ever felt like the elder brother?

What picture of God does Jesus present in the Parable of the Prodigal Son?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB, Ampleforth

Reflection on the 1st reading

In the first readings for the Sundays of Lent, we are working through the history of Israel as we move towards the promise of the New Covenant which is the central point of Easter. In this year's readings, the whole period between the Exodus from Egypt and the promise of the New Covenant at the

time of the Babylonian exile (a period of some six hundred years) is represented by this one reading, the moment of arrival in the Promised Land of Canaan. This is the time when the provisional arrangements of the desert wanderings come to an end. The stories of the desert wanderings are folk-history and what happened there has a special meaning for the people; they are not modern research-history.

So, manna (probably an edible honey-like excretion of a desert plant) is used in our passage as a symbol - the symbol of God's wonderful protection and feeding of Israel even in harsh and almost uninhabitable conditions (as here in the Sinai desert).

The reading describes a double celebration, bringing together two festivals: the Passover in origin is a feast of wandering nomads, as they move at the first full moon of spring from their sheltered winter pastures to cooler summer pastures; the festival of Unleavened Bread, on the other hand, marks the beginning of the wheat harvest, a feast of a settled agricultural people. For Paul the celebration represents the newness of Easter, the freshness of the New Covenant.

Votive lamps

This week, at Holy Name, the votive lamps burning either side of the Blessed Sacrament are for the **intentions of Teresa Wyche and Colette and Fred Spike, RIP.**

This week, at Our Lady & St Philomena, the votive lamp burning before the relic of St Philomena is for the **intentions of Teresa Christie.**

Archdiocese of Liverpool
Parishes of Holy Name and
Our Lady & Saint Philomena

Clergy:

Fr Mark Fairhurst, Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Afaako, Assistant Priest

Based at: Holy Name Presbytery, Moss Pits
Lane, Fazakerley, L10 9LG

Telephone: 0151 476 0289

Email: holyname@rcaol.org.uk

Facebook: HolyNameandStPhilomena

www.holynamestphilomenas.wordpress.com

Serving the Churches of:

Holy Name, Moss Pits Lane, L10 9LG

Our Lady & Saint Philomena, Sparrow Hall
Road, L9 6BU

Parish office at Holy Name: Open Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00 am
to 12.30 pm, and 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm.

Baptisms: Our Lady & St Philomena each
Sunday at 11 am, Holy Name each Sunday at
12.15 pm. Not 5th Sunday of the month.

Confessions: Holy Name on Saturday from
5.30 pm, Our Lady & St Philomena on
Wednesday from 6.30 pm or by request.

Funerals and Marriages: By arrangement.

Rosary: Before each weekday Mass.

Novena: After Wednesday evening Mass at
Our Lady & St Philomena.

Exposition: Holy Name, Thursday at 9.15 am

Visits to sick and housebound: Please
contact the parish office.

Hospital visits: If you wish to see a priest,
please let the hospital staff know.

Mass requests: Complete a pre-printed
envelope and place in the Mass intention box.
Please specify the reason for the intention, i.e.
lately dead, anniversary etc. For a particular
day, please request early. The Mass may be
shared unless you request otherwise.

Newsletter notices: Please e-mail to
holyname@rcaol.org.uk or hand in to the
Parish Office by Thursday morning.

Repository: Open before and after Mass.



Archdiocese of Liverpool
Registered Charity Number 1199714

Readings at Mass

Scan the QR code for the Mass readings.

1st reading: Joshua 5:9a,10-12

2nd reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32



Psalm response

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thank you

Your offerings this week total £886.56 and
for HCPT £409.95

Welcome

We welcome Jude Ian Smith and Zachary
Smart at Our Lady & St Philomena this
weekend as they will receive the sacrament
of baptism on Sunday 6 April.

We welcome Averie Haygarth at Holy
Name this weekend as they will receive the
sacrament of baptism on Sunday 6 April.

Laetare Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent is referred to as
'Laetare Sunday' from the first word of the
entrance antiphon 'Rejoice'. Rose coloured
vestments are worn. Traditionally this
Sunday is a day of celebration within the
austere period of Lent.

Memorial garden

The memorial garden at Our Lady & St
Philomena is open each Sunday after Mass
for quiet prayer and reflection.

Baptism preparation meeting

The next baptism preparation meeting is
Saturday 5 April at 11 am at Holy Name
Church. Baptism application forms are
available after Mass, from the parish office
or on the day of the meeting.

Mass times in our family of parishes

Holy Name

Saturday 6 pm and Sunday 11 am

Our Lady & St Philomena

Sunday 9.30 am

Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 4.30 pm and Sunday 10 am

Pope's intention - March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Easter Triduum

The Easter services in our family of parishes will be celebrated on:

Maundy Thursday, 17 April

6.00 pm - Blessed Sacrament (*followed by Watching until night prayer at 8 pm*)

7.30 pm - Our Lady & St Philomena, (*followed by Watching until final prayer at 9 pm*)

Good Friday service, 18 April

3.00 pm - Holy Name

3.00 pm - Blessed Sacrament

Easter Vigil, 19 April

6.00 pm - Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm - Holy Name

These will be the only Masses on this day.

Easter Sunday, 20 April

9.30 am - Our Lady & St Philomena

10.00 am - Blessed Sacrament

11.00 am - Holy Name

Music for the Easter Triduum

There will be a rehearsal for the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil services after the 11 am Mass at Holy Name on Sunday 13 April. It is open to singers from Holy Name and St Philomena's.

Lenten vocation

Jubilee 2025, Pilgrims of Hope need priests on the journey! If you feel God might be calling you to serve His people and the Church as a priest, contact the Archdiocesan vocation Director to start a conversation. Email vocations@rcaol.co.uk or call 0151 727 2493

CAFOD Family Fast Day

CAFOD Family Fast Day envelopes can be returned throughout Lent.

Lourdes pilgrimage

The archdiocese pilgrimage to Lourdes is from 24 to 31 July. For more information:

- See church noticeboard and website
- <https://liverpool-lourdes.org.uk>
- Tel: 07484 911623
- Email: lourdesplgrimage@rcaol.org.uk

Easter raffle

Raffle tickets to win Easter egg hampers are now available. All proceeds go to support the work of the SVP.

Way of the Cross procession

The 'Way of the Cross' procession in Liverpool on Saturday 12 April at 1 pm. Starts at the Blessed Sacrament Shine and finishes at the Cathedral, with a blessing from Archbishop Malcolm. All welcome.

Numbers galore

Numbers are 13 and 16. Two winners.

Recruitment

The archdiocese is recruiting a parish administrator, Catholic social action coordinator, office manager (finance), safeguarding administrator and youth ministry coordinator. To apply <https://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/careers>

From Right to Life

The Committee of MPs responsible for scrutinising the assisted suicide Bill has completed its final session. To let your MP know your views <https://righttolife.org.uk>

Deanery minutes

The latest minutes from our deanery synodal council are available in church, on the noticeboard and the parish website.

We remember in our prayers those who have died recently

Mary Robinson, Martin John Burke
Mary Fleming, Patricia Ann Denson,
Eileen Cody
May they rest in peace

Day	Time	Church	Intention
Fourth Sunday of Lent			
Saturday 29th	5.30 pm	<i>Holy Name</i>	<i>Confessions until 5.50 pm</i>
	6.00 pm	Holy Name	Patrick King, RIP Diane Gadsby, RIP
Sunday 30th	9.30 am	St Philomena	People of our Parishes Tommy Kennedy, RIP
	9.30 am	Hospital	Special intention
	11.00 am	Holy Name	Nikki Jenkins, 4 th anniversary, RIP Patrick Joseph Long, anniversary
Monday 31st			No service
Tuesday 1st	10.00 am	Holy Name	Harry Williams, lately dead Eddie Yanez, intentions
Wednesday 2nd	10.00 am	Holy Name	Aggi Higham, lately dead Marie Fazakerley, RIP
	6.30 pm	St Philomena	Stations of the cross
	6.30 pm	<i>St Philomena</i>	<i>Confessions until 6.50 pm</i>
	7.00 pm	St Philomena	Doreen Crellin, RIP Anne Dillon, RIP <i>Novena after Mass</i>
Thursday 3rd	9.15 am	Holy Name	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.00 am	Holy Name	Robert Peel Special intention
Friday 4th	10.00 am	St Philomena	Muriel Taylor, get well John Shanon, RIP
	7.00 pm	Holy Name	Stations of the cross
Fifth Sunday of Lent			
Saturday 5th	5.30 pm	<i>Holy Name</i>	<i>Confessions until 5.50 pm</i>
	6.00 pm	Holy Name	People of our Parishes Gary Baker, lately dead
Sunday 6th	9.30 am	St Philomena	Billy and Colette Shudall In thanksgiving
	9.30 am	Hospital	Marie Melia, RIP
	11.00 am	Holy Name	Isabella Claire Suaverdez, 1 st birthday Ann Tierney, lately dead

Name of parish Holy Name 148

Name and address of your own bank **To** The Manager
Address

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Please pay to

Bank name HSBC plc
Address 99-101 Lord Street
LIVERPOOL
L2 6PG

Sort code 40-29-12

Parish bank account number **for the credit of**
Account name 148 Holy Name Presbytery
Account number 91543830

the sum of
(in words)

(in figures) £.....

commencing

Delete as applicable **and thereafter** monthly/annually

until you receive further notice from me/us in writing

Please insert the title and number of
your own bank account **and debit my account accordingly**

Account name

Account number

Signature

Date



LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE

Name of parish

Our Lady and St Philomena 168

Name and address of your own bank

To

The Manager

Address

.....
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Please pay to

Bank name

HSBC plc

Address

99-101 Lord Street
LIVERPOOL
L2 6PG

Sort code

40-29-12

Parish bank account number

for the credit of

Account name

168 Archdiocese of Liverpool
St Philomena V M Presbytery

Account number

61544446

the sum of

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commencing

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Delete as applicable

and thereafter

monthly/annually

until you receive further notice from me/us in writing

**Please insert the title and number of
your own bank account**

and debit my account accordingly

Account name

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