



LENT

Sunday, March 31

For the Kids

Make a crown of thorns for lent - teaching kids about sacrifice .

This is a great way to get kids involved with lent! Craft a crown of thorns, and then every time your child does a good deed or makes a sacrifice, he or she gets to remove one of the "thorns".

Hopefully, you have all of the thorns removed by Easter.

[click here](#)



A Meditation based on Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 *This man welcomes sinners. (Luke 15:2)*

Isn't it ironic that this story, which is one of the best loved in all of Scripture, has a somewhat misleading title? Rather than calling it the parable of the prodigal son, we should call it the parable of the forgiving father. This is not a story only about one son. It's a story about two sons and their father. And as a parable, this story tells us about our heavenly Father's infinite love for us.

The parable of the prodigal son has two distinct goals: it shows us that God wants everyone to know his love, and it shows us that God wants those who know his love to experience it more deeply.

In a sense, the prodigal son was "dead" because of the sins he had committed when he was away from home. but the moment he came back, it's as if he had come back to life. Jesus used this fellow to describe people who have not accepted the love that God has for them. they need to turn and come home to him. They need what we would call an "initial conversion."

These are the people God asks us to lift up in prayer in a special way - especially our loved ones who are far from the Lord. May they all experience an initial conversion!

The Prodigal son's older brother, however, was already "alive." He was faithful and hardworking. But he also needed a conversion. He may have been obedient to his father, but a lot of sinful thoughts still occupied his mind. The fellow needed "ongoing conversion," a deeper turning away from his habits of resentment, anger, and self-righteousness.

Even if we believe in Jesus, pray every day, and go to Mass regularly, we still need ongoing conversion. We can be trying our best to live good lives and to care for our families. But we can all fall into judgmental, self-righteous, self-centred ways of thinking. And so God asks us to keep turning to him for help and healing.

God welcomes home everyone who comes to him. No matter how big or small our sins, he is always waiting with open arms.

Today's other Readings:

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 34:2-7

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Let us Pray, "Thank you, Father, for welcoming me home."

Pausing during Lent

A Lenten Video Reflection

Terry Hershey, author of *The Power of Pause*, offers insight on slowing down this Lenten season.

[click here for 2min Reflection](#)

