

CHRIST OUR HOPE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
FAITH IN LAITY CORNER



**April 01, 2019**

**YEAR 3/CYCLE C- 4<sup>TH</sup> WEEK OF LENT**  
**Readings Jos. 5:9, 10-12; Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32**

## Homecoming

Anyone who has travelled outside of their home town, city or country understand the notion of coming home. Planning for the trip was exciting, the travel was great; it had its adventures, beautiful sights, great food, new friends.... But you are always glad to come home. Whether it is to lie in your own bed, see your children or feed your pet; coming home is what you want to do after a while. Coming home has both the physical and spiritual dimension to it. Today's readings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, with the altar and the priest in rose vestments; we think of the joy to come with the Resurrection. Yes, in the midst of the suffering and penance of Lent our eyes look forward to the joy to come.

The first reading from the Book of Joshua, recalls that the Jewish people wandered in the desert for 40 years, in their wonderings God provided heavenly food -manna. It sustained them and a generation after, for those who came out of Egypt. God promised that He would take them to a land that they could call their own.

*“They ate of the produce of the land in the form  
of unleavened cakes and parched grain” (Jos. 5:11)*

When they reached that home -Canaan, they were able to plant food for themselves, the manna ceased. They had reached home.

*“After they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased.” (Jos. 5:12)*

The Gospel was another example of coming home. Yes, the youngest son asked for his share (that he did not work for); to take to experience the thrills of the world.

*“Father, give me the share of your  
estate that should come to me.” (Lk. 15:12)*

As a loving parent, who knew that the real world would not be as welcoming as home, gave him his share!

*“The younger son collected all his belongings  
and set off to a distant country.” (Lk. 13:13)*

This son was a long way from home. He was disconnected from family, he thought these friends appreciated him. This young man was to learn about the notion of ‘fair weather friends’, finding out the hard way, that these are only there for one purpose.

*“A severe famine struck that country,  
and he found himself in dire need.” (Lk. 13:14)*

Far from home without supports, and no money; gave him a quick reality check. The economy crashed, jobs were hard to find, starvation was setting in.

*“And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on  
which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.” (Lk. 13:15)*

The young man in the story was starving in a strange land while on the other hand, his Father’s servants were in a better position than he that day.

*“Coming to his senses” (Lk. 13:17)*

He weighed out his options, Pride would have to be cast aside, he made a decision thinking.

*“How many of my father’s hired workers  
have more than enough food to eat.” (Lk. 15:17)*

He weighed out his options, it was a life and death, a decision had to be made quickly!!

*“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.” (Lk. 13:18)*

This decision is not only a physical fact that he planned to return to his father. The young man made a spiritual return, to reappraise what was really important and admitted that his former choices were all wrong. He made a physical turn- around, he was not going to let pride, his audacious request from his father, prevent him from going home.

The Father in heaven is a loving God, who will allow us our worldly experiences, He gives us space, and wait for us to ‘*come to our senses*’ so that we could desire Him above all else. He looks out for us longingly, waiting to bring us home.

“RETURN HOME, IT IS WHERE OUR HEART NEEDS TO BE...”

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