
SESSION 1

Based on Episode 1 | Christina

Synopsis of the Episode

Christina Fitzsimmons loses her job after leaving an IOU in the till for £60 and taking the cash to pay for groceries until she was paid. After losing her job, she is plunged even further into poverty and is forced to sell some of her jewellery simply to survive. When her mum dies a few days later, she decides not to tell anyone until she has claimed her mother's pension, but her sister Mariella begins to be suspicious and then finds out the truth. Christina is arrested, and her relationship with her sister deteriorates dramatically. Throughout this, Fr Michael Kerrigan tries to help while battling his own growing memories of abuse as a child.

Suggested Bible Passage

Luke 6.20-31

Poverty and Morality

This episode powerfully raises the issue of what being desperately poor can drive you to do.

It begins with a smaller scenario – Christina putting an IOU in the till for £60 – and then moves to a much bigger one – Christina not declaring her mother's death so that she could claim her pension.

Reflecting on the Luke 6 passage (and other passages from the Gospels if any come to mind) what do you think Jesus' response would have been to Christina?

- Do you think that one 'sin' is worse than the other?
 - What would you have done if you were Mariella when you found out what Christina had done?
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Children and Sin

In this episode, Father Michael Kerrigan says more than once that children are 'pure' and have nothing to confess to God.

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- What do you think? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
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‘Walk through’ services

On an entirely different subject, the episode opens with Fr Michael explaining the service as he went along for children about to take their First Mass (this practice is often called a Walk-through Mass, because you walk people through the service)

- Have you ever done this in your church?
 - Are there any services or occasions when it would be useful?
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Closing Prayer

Spend some time in prayer. If you feel comfortable this could be a time of open prayer or you could use the biddings and prayer below. bidding:

We pray for all those whose lives are blighted by poverty...

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who feel they have no choice but to do what they know to be wrong....

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those for who feel crushed by the weight despair...

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord God,

You came to give honour to the least, those forgotten, overlooked and misjudged.

You came to give first place to the last, those left behind, misunderstood and undervalued.

You came to give a warm welcome to the lost, those who are orphaned, abandoned and destitute.

Help us to be your ears to listen to their cries.

Help us to be your voice speaking out love and acceptance.

Help us to be your feet walking beside those in need.

Help us to be your hands to clothe, feed and shelter them.

You came for the least, the lost and last of this world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Amen.

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