



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, Film: *Calvary* (2014), Theme: Grace, Scripture: John 4:5–42

Introduction

On the Third Sunday in Lent, the Church reflects on grace—particularly as it is revealed in Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. In that story, grace meets brokenness not with condemnation, but with truth spoken in love.

Calvary is a stark and often unsettling meditation on what grace looks like in a wounded community. Father James, portrayed by Brendan Gleeson, serves as a Christ-like figure who remains steady in the face of hostility, cynicism, and deep moral fracture. The film does not romanticize faith or the Church; instead, it places grace within the grit of human frailty and asks whether mercy can survive in a culture marked by suspicion and pain.

During Lent, *Calvary* invites us to consider whether grace is sentimental kindness or something stronger—costly, persistent, and rooted in truth.

Discussion Questions

1. After viewing *Calvary*, what thoughts and impressions lingered after the credits rolled? Why?
2. From a cinematic perspective, what did you enjoy about the film? What worked well? What did not?
3. In many ways, the film mirrors the Passion week, with Father James (Brendan Gleeson) as a Christ character. In this community of brokenness, where do we see grace and mercy displayed?
4. In this week’s Gospel reading, we encounter a grace-filled exchange between Jesus and the Woman at the Well (John 4). How does this encounter mirror the exchanges in the film? Where and with whom might the Spirit be nudging you to offer and receive the grace of God afresh this week?

How to Access This Film: *Calvary* (2014) is available through the following legal streaming and rental options in Canada: Preferred Streaming Option - Amazon Prime Video, Free 30-day trial available for new subscribers. Rent / Buy Amazon Prime Video Rent: \$4.99, Buy: \$14.99. Availability and pricing may vary by region and over time. For additional options or to check availability in other countries, www.justwatch.com/ca is a helpful tool for locating where films can be streamed, rented, or purchased legally.

About Movies for Lent

Movies for Lent is a Lenten film series curated by The Rev. Jason Tripp, President of Thorneloe University, in partnership with the Diocese of Algoma. Each film is paired with a central theological theme and Scripture from the lectionary, inviting viewers into reflection and conversation at the intersection of faith, culture, and lived experience.

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