

Eloquent and Truthful

Learning objectives:

- Describe what is meant by the Catholic virtues **eloquent** and **truthful**
- Explain how we might practise these virtues
- Identify how others in our Archdiocese are being **eloquent** and **truthful**

Eloquent: the ability to speak or write fluently, persuasively and appropriately. We are eloquent when we use language to express our ideas or opinions clearly and with conviction. When we choose our words, we should do so carefully so they are kind and compassionate, and don't hurt others. Eloquence isn't limited to speaking and writing. We can express ourselves in other ways like music, drama, painting or dance. We should use our creative gifts to say things in a way that is interesting, truthful, memorable and faithful.

Truthful: God wants us to be truthful in all we do. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life', so being honest and truthful means we are following in his footsteps and living life the way God wants us to. Being truthful is being faithful to ourselves and to Jesus. We should stand up for the truth.

Key stage 1: activity 1

Read the story of Chicken Licken. What does this story tell us about telling the truth?

While that is a story, written to show us how we can easily be mistaken, it is important to seek the truth in real life. Imagine someone said something about you that was untrue. How would that make you feel?

The Bible tells us that God values the truth. As it says in Psalm 51:6: 'God delights when truth reigns in our inmost being.' But sometimes it's hard to know the truth. Can you think of reasons someone might be wrong about something?

Example, they did not listen properly; someone told them a lie.

Individually, write a prayer or letter to God asking for help to tell the truth even when it is hard.

Lord God,
help us to know the truth,
and to speak the truth,
today and always.

Amen.
(Assemblies.org.uk)

Key stage 1: Circle time or activity

Eloquent: this means we have the language we need to talk about our emotions, to express our thoughts and ideas, ask questions and talk to other people.

Can you imagine what it would be like to go to a different country and not be able to speak the language? How do you think you would feel if you couldn't talk to people to ask for directions, to get help or even say 'hello'?

Example: you might feel afraid, confused and alone.

In our Archdiocese, Father Hudson's Care has a project called Brushstrokes, which helps refugees. They give out food and clothing, they provide advice. And they help people learn English. Learning English means they can go to the doctors and tell the doctor what's wrong with them. It means they can ask for help. It helps them find work. And it helps them become part of the community and make friends, rather than feeling alone.



"We are happier than before because we are learning English and I am coming out of my Home. You help Kurdish people for everything. Now I love England."

Can you find out what 'hello' or 'welcome' is in five other languages? Draw a welcome poster using the different words.

Biblical inspiration

1 Thessalonians 5:11

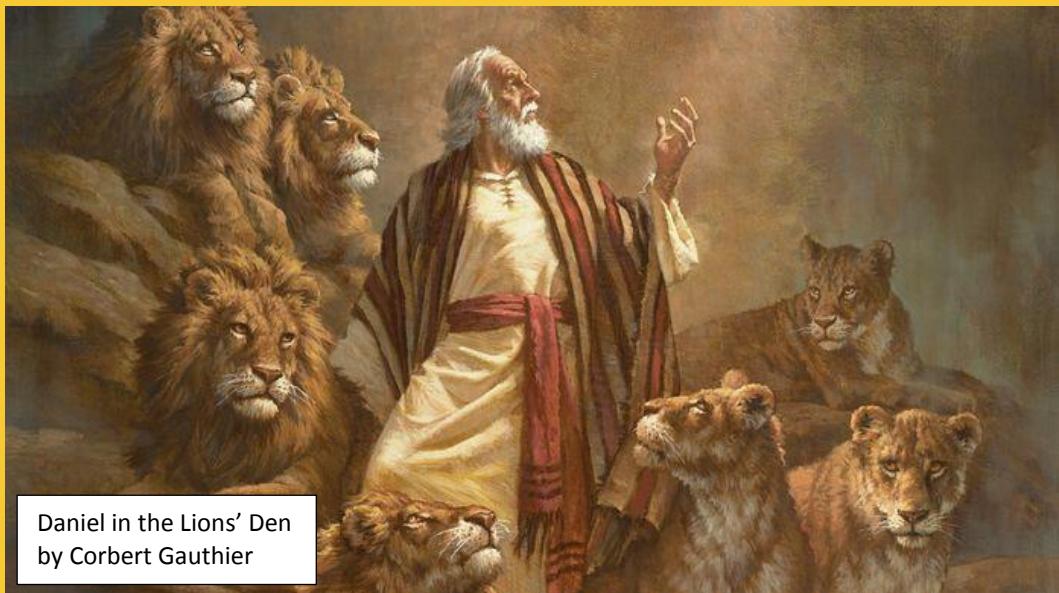
Lord, help me to use my words to encourage others and build them up far more than critiquing or criticizing them.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Key stage 2: activity 1

Who can recall the story of Daniel in the lions' den? The jealous leaders who wanted to get rid of Daniel lied to the king, tricking him into making the new law. But Daniel believed in something so strongly that he was willing to risk everything – even his life – to stand up for that truth. In the story, God honoured him for his truthfulness and saved him from the lions.



Daniel's story sets us a good example to try to stand up for the truth on all occasions and to know that God will be with us in that decision to tell the truth.

In our Archdiocese there are organisations like Anawim who always stand up for the truth, even when it's difficult or unpopular. Anawim helps women who are in trouble with the law to turn their lives around. Some people turn their backs on these women, but Anawim helps them to change and to make better choices in the future. They believe it's true that people can change, so they stand up for that belief.



Even when other people turn away, Anawim is there to help.

Do one of the following: Write a short story about standing up for the truth.

Or: Write a prayer asking God to help us stand up for the truth.

Key stage 2: activity 2

We talked about being eloquent as the ability to speak or write fluently, persuasively and appropriately, and using language to express our opinions clearly. But, what about people who don't have good language skills? Or who don't have language at all?

Some people who may find language difficult are people with disabilities. In Coleshill, Father Hudson's Care supports people with very complex disabilities, some of whom aren't able to speak like you or I. The care staff are very experienced in understanding what their clients need. They become familiar with people's facial expressions, vocalisations and body language. They understand that, without language, their clients use other ways to say if they are hungry, thirsty, happy or sad.

But there's more to life than just letting people know our basic needs. We enjoy learning, playing, reading, writing or painting. What other creative things do you enjoy?

Example: dancing, singing, drawing or making things. These are all other ways of being eloquent.

We are eloquent when we use our creative gifts to say things in a way that is interesting, truthful, memorable and faithful.

Father Hudson's staff support their clients to express themselves in other ways, like writing, painting, making crafts and acting. The people they work with are using their creative gifts in interesting ways.

Individually, use your creative gifts to draw a poster encouraging people to be truthful.



Above: art on display at St Catherine's Day Centre.

Below: Simon held an exhibition of his paintings.



Key stage 2: activity 3

In Sandwell, Brushstrokes Community Project supports refugees and people who are living in poverty. They give out food and clothing to people who have very little.

Sometimes there are delays in people getting the support they need, which can lead to them facing poverty or becoming homeless. Brushstrokes use their knowledge and experience to tell the government about the problems people are having. By talking to people in power, Brushstrokes has helped improve things for the people they work with, so they are at less risk.



Dave from Brushstrokes talks about how people can help refugees

Dave from Brushstrokes also goes out and speaks to people about what Brushstrokes does. He tells people how they can help refugees in their own area and inspires them to help others.

To do these things, Dave and the people working at Brushstrokes have to be both eloquent and truthful. They have to use their language to explain what the problems are and persuade people that they should help refugees.

They need to be confident speaking in front of other people so they can get their point across clearly. They also have to make sure they tell the truth so the people they talk to know they are trustworthy and honest. Being truthful about the problem is much more likely to encourage people to help.

In small groups, write a short presentation persuading people why they should help others. You could choose to talk about helping refugees, homeless people, disabled people, or older people.

Biblical inspiration:

Proverbs 24:26 Dear God, teach me to speak the truth always. Help me to be honest at all times.

Psalm 51:6 God delights when truth reigns in our inmost being.

Dear Father,

We pray our school will be filled with love
We pray our learning will be full of truth
We pray our playground will be full of joy
We pray our friendships will be full of forgiveness

We pray our teachers will be full of wisdom
We pray our community will be full of hope

May we run with your love
Build on your truth
Play with your joy
Share your forgiveness
Rest in your wisdom
Every day

Amen

(www.lords-prayer-words.com)



The Sermon on the Mount, Jan Brueghel the Elder, 1598

Father Hudson's Care is your local Catholic charity, supporting people in need across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's staff and volunteers give their time and skills to help older people, disabled people, homeless people, refugees, people who are lonely, and children and young people who are experiencing difficulties. Father Hudson's Care is grateful to everyone who supports them, because it means they can reach out and help more people in need.



Eloquent and truthful

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. *Ephesians 4:25*

Father
Hudson's
Care