

Brooklyn

Watch the whole film if you can. If you can't here is the link to the trailer.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15syDwC000k

Exploring the theme



Brooklyn tells the story of Eilis Lacey, a young Irish woman who leaves the familiarity of home for a new life in 1950s New York. At first, she struggles with homesickness, but through friendship, kindness and unexpected love, Brooklyn gradually becomes somewhere she feels she belongs.

At its heart, the film explores the courage to embrace an uncertain future, the lasting influence of those we love, and the difficult choices we face between our responsibilities to others and finding our own way.

Father Flood plays an important part in helping Eilis find her feet in America. He helps her find work, supports her education and introduces her to a community. We see this same spirit of care when Eilis helps serve a Christmas meal to Irish men who, like her, are far from home. Together, these moments offer a picture of faith that is lived, not just spoken about, finding expression in everyday acts of kindness, welcome, hospitality and care for others.

Behind Eilis's new beginning is the encouragement of her older sister, Rose, who wants her to have opportunities she might never have had in Ireland. When Rose dies unexpectedly, Eilis returns to a home that is both familiar and forever changed. She finds herself torn between the life she has begun to build and the people and memories she has left behind.

By the end, Eilis has become a more confident young woman, shaped by the people who have encouraged and supported her. She hasn't forgotten where she came from, but has found the courage to choose where her future lies.



Questions

- How does Eilis's idea of home change throughout the film? What makes somewhere feel like home to you?
- Rose encourages Eilis to make a new life for herself. What do you think she hoped her sister would find in America?
- Father Flood helps Eilis find her feet in Brooklyn. What do his actions tell us about what faith looks like in everyday life?
- Eilis finds herself torn between two different futures and people she loves. What did you think of the choice she eventually makes?
- Towards the end, Eilis offers reassurance to another young woman making the same journey she once made. Why do you think the film ends with this moment?

Final Reflection

Life is full of beginnings and endings, of people we meet, places we leave, and relationships that shape who we become. We carry something of those people with us into whatever comes next. One of the film's most hopeful messages is that the care we receive can become something we offer to others. A warm welcome, a listening ear or a little encouragement might seem ordinary, but to someone finding their way, they can mean an enormous amount. We may never fully realise the difference we make to another person's life. But through the friendships we build, the love we share and the room we make for others, we can help create communities where people feel welcomed, valued and at home.

Prayer

God of love and belonging,
Thank you for the people who have shaped our lives, encouraged us and helped us find our way.
Be close to those who are grieving, facing difficult choices or searching for somewhere to belong.
Help us carry forward the love we have received and share that same kindness with others.
May our communities be places of welcome, friendship and belonging.
Amen.