



PETER  
CAPALDI

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HUGH  
GRANT

AND

BEN  
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AS THE VOICE OF  
PADDINGTON

# PADDINGTON 2

**MOVIE  
MOMENTS**

**Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.**

## Forgiveness and restoration

It is clearly coincidental, but perhaps providential, that *Paddington 2* was released whilst the media has been driving the #MeToo hashtag. We continually read new salacious stories revealing people's hidden depths of wickedness, with an implicit expectation that we should now vilify and exclude them. Then, along came *Paddington 2*, with its heart-warming story of a little bear who looks for the hidden depths of goodness in vilified and excluded people, with the explicit expectation that they should be recognised as part of the society which we all share.



The film's storyline is simple, but beautifully developed. Paddington is working hard as an accident-prone window cleaner to earn enough money to buy a pop-up book from an antiques shop to give to his aunt for her birthday. However, the book contains a secret message about the location of hidden treasure, and the villainous Phoenix Buchanan (Hugh Grant) steals it away. Wrongly convicted of Buchanan's crime, Paddington is sent to prison, where he faces the violent Knuckles McGinty (Brendan Gleeson).

Many children's films operate at two levels: obvious visual slapstick for young viewers, and subtle verbal humour for adults. *Paddington 2* has a much more connected integrity, with an underlying message for young and old. As much as many of us have been hurt, in different ways, by the wicked behaviour of other people, there is good in everyone. And, as much as evil within people's hearts must be recognised and repented, the goal must be forgiveness and restoration. Many films utilise a redemptive story-arc for key characters. *Paddington 2* applies this to everyone. And, thereby, has an important message for us all.



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**EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.**