

May this day and the scripture we hear call us to look at the depth of our faith. We are called on to look into our hearts to show forgiveness and reconciliation to all we meet. Christ's forgiveness is without condemnation.



Is Jesus the God of surprises? Some men had brought a sinful woman to him. Would he condemn, and approve of death by stoning? They wondered what he might say about the law. They had come to punish her. His actions were different.

No condemnation of the woman and no condemnation of them either, just a very challenging question about the way we condemn people – 'if you have no sin, cast the first stone.' no words about law – just a writing in the sand and we don't know what he wrote. A surprising Rabbi, a surprising God.

Whatever way he acted, they did not argue. Maybe they saw some truth. They just quietly left. Maybe they got some message that love, like his for the woman, was more important than such a violent law, to stone someone to death.

A surprise for the woman also. She was so used to being condemned, with no mention of the partner in adultery. She realised that because of Jesus now, nobody condemned her. Because of this love and acceptance, she had strength not to sin again which was the challenge given to her by Jesus, 'go and sin no more.'

*Lord by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the saviour of the world.*

Donal Neary SJ (Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)



**SECOND READING** *Philippians 3:8-14*  
A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

I believe nothing can happen that will out-weigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead.

Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**GOSPEL** *John 8: 1-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there; in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said 'Woman where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir', she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**All bow for following three lines:**

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.*  
**Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God are my strength.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us.... **Amen.**



**OPENING PRAYER**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, .....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 43:16-21*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 125*

**R. What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.**

- When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R)
- The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them! What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.' (R)
- Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R)
- They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R)

