

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT C



THE GOSPEL [John 8:1-11](#)

*In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women.
So what do you say?*

They brought out a law about adultery
from somewhere and you
ignored them, and
wrote on the
ground,

“I’m doing something new.”

They said, “Kill her.”
“Fine,” you said. “The sinless one
should throw the
first stone.”

No one did.

“Go and sin no more,”
you said.

Lord,
have mercy on us.

Then let us be your mercy to
all others on the planet
and to the planet itself.

THE FIRST READING [Isaiah 43:16-21](#)

*Remember not the events of the past.
See, I am doing something new!*

Jesus,
you are the Father's gift,
always present,
always
new.

Please
help us find you
in all the new paths you might
be making in the deserts of Ukraine,
in climate change and
racial justice.

You are the cool water,
freshening our
everyday
lives.

Please, let us all
drink deeply.

THE SECOND READING [Philippians 3:8-14](#)

*For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things
and I consider them so much rubbish.*

Jesus, give us power
to accept the loss
of all things
in order
to gain you.

In you is everything.

Help us say
yes.

We are your "masterpieces
in the making." **(Desmond Tutu) Anne Osdieck*

Reflection:

We are invited today to recognise the utter completeness of God's forgiveness, and his desire to restore us to new life.

The prophet Isaiah tells how the people learned anew that their God was to be known not only through remembering the past, but also in the experience of their lives in the here and now. **(First Reading)**



The **Psalm** recalls and celebrates the joy experienced by the exiles as they return home. God's mercies in the past give grounds for hope in any present distress.

Paul loves Christ very deeply, and vividly longs to *'have Christ, and be given a place in him'*. He yearns to be in an intimate relationship with him. Yet he also knows that he cannot be complacent and that he is still *'straining ahead'* for what is to come. **(Second Reading)**.



The **Gospel** tells the story of those who look for the public humiliation and condemnation of the woman taken in adultery, and also of Jesus himself. The accusers have a narrow view of the mercy of God, and wish to use the woman as an opportunity for scoring points against Jesus. However, Jesus understands wisely and demonstrates bravely the overwhelming mercy of God.

Let us pray to experience the complete acceptance and forgiveness of Jesus in our lives this day. As followers of Christ, may we be heralds of his life-giving love, mercy and freedom to the world. We also continue to pray for peace across the world, especially in Ukraine and eastern Europe.