

Formed in Prayer

*Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.*

Dear Father,
Be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Gospel

John 8:1-11

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.'

What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?

What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?

Reflection

'Nor I do not condemn you.' These words of Jesus wash over us constantly in these days, but the question becomes, do we have ears to hear them? We condemn ourselves for past failures and sins constantly, sometimes without even noticing, and we can often be crippled by shame because of it. In the days of Holy Week we prepare to see death, the wage of sin (Rom 6:23) transformed into life. We can only bring to the Lord what we have. Our brokenness and sin, handing it over to Him, and in that moment letting His merciful whisper reach our ears as they did the woman's in the Gospel: "I do not condemn you!" May we have the courage to reveal and hand over our deepest wounds on this last Sunday of Lent – and may we have the courage as leaders to embolden and inspire others to do the same.

(Fr Trenton Van Reesch, Canberra and Goulburn)

Prayer

Lord,
You who remind me to forgive
and do to others as I would want done to me,
help me to accept your forgiveness,
and allow me to always start anew in you.
Amen