



Shine

3RD APRIL 2022
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SCRIPTURE
JOHN 8:1-11

Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.

Reflection

The scribes and Pharisees are trying to trick Jesus in today's Gospel, but Jesus does not give them what they want. Once again, He shows love, mercy and compassion.

They were all pointing the finger at the woman in the wrong. Have you ever done this? Pointed a finger at someone who was doing something wrong? Think about it, when we do this, your other three fingers are pointing back to you - have a go try it!

No one is perfect, except from God, and that is the point of what Jesus was saying when he invited those without sin to judge the woman and if they were

without sin to throw a stone at her. None of them could so walked away and Jesus gives her a chance to embrace a new life as He tells her to 'Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

Jesus offers us this same love, mercy and compassion when we choose the wrong path. Through the great sacrament of Reconciliation we can receive all this from Him as we come back to the right path.

ACTIVITY

Stone Painting

Find or buy some smooth stones and spend some time painting them. You might want to put words like sorry, mercy, love or forgiveness in the middle and then decorate around them, or you might want to paint a cross on it.

If you can't find a stone you could draw one and decorate it in a similar way.

Prayer

God our Father, you always pour out your endless love and compassion to us all.

Help us to recognise when we stray from the right path so that we might find our way back to your endless mercy.

Amen

CHALLENGE

Take some time this week to find out when your Church offers the Sacrament of Reconciliation – some Churches have set times, others you can speak to the priest and arrange a time to suit you both.

Think about those things that are blocking your relationship with God and confess them and receive that loving mercy and compassion from God our Father.