




# FAITH @ Home

6 APRIL 2025: 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT | YEAR C

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore  
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*Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!*

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

### First Reading:

Isaiah 43:16-21

### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 125(126)

### Second Reading:

Philippians 3:8-14

### Gospel:

John 8:1-11

"...NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU..."



The Woman Taken In Adultery: Guercino, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## Hear



Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [HERE](#).

## Pray

In the Gospel today we hear the story of the woman caught in adultery. There are a lot of heightened emotions in this story, but notice the gentle calmness of Jesus throughout.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Can you imagine how desperate and ashamed the woman must have felt dragged before the crowd, and how the tender words and gaze of Jesus must have filled her heart with overflowing gratitude? Have you ever felt truly grateful for Jesus' love and mercy?
- Have you ever felt like condemning others rather than lifting them up in prayer and refraining from critical words? Ask for the grace to be like Jesus to all you meet this week.

## Family Prayer



*Jesus, you know that we are weak and that we stumble and fall through our sin. Help us to rise again with you and strive onwards for holiness. Amen*

## Talk

In this week's Gospel, we hear about Jesus' loving response to a woman caught up in a life of sin:

- How good are we in our family at recognising each other's strengths? Do we praise each other, affirm each other, thank each other for the good things we do?
- Or are we more tempted to focus on each other's weaknesses and flaws and make a big deal out of things like that instead?
- Let everyone make a list of five good things about each member of the family - then compare what you have on each list!
- Jesus also tells the woman in the Gospel to "sin no more". Are there things we need to say sorry for to each other, and to God? Have we been too quick to judge others?

## Family Challenge!



This is the fifth Sunday of Lent and Palm Sunday is fast approaching. Make the most of Lent by getting to Confession this week (for those who have made their first Confession!) Make it a family event, and why not stop for a treat on the way home to celebrate God's mercy!

## GO AND SIN NO MORE

The Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Lent continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case.

The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing.

We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment.

Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

Read the full explanation on [Loyola Press - Sunday Connection](#)

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Mary Magdalene: Woman caught in Adultery scene from The Passion of the Christ



## CARLO'S CORNER

Am I a Pharisee?

Can you imagine what it must have been like for the woman caught in adultery to be dragged in front of the crowd like that, and used in a ploy to try to destroy Jesus? The Pharisees did not care about her brokenness, or her need for forgiveness; all they wanted was to use the Law to trap Jesus. We don't know what words Jesus wrote in the dust that day - the only known written words of Jesus. But His message for the Pharisees is one for us too: Am I quick to judge others, to condemn them, even when I cannot know their hearts? Am I blind to my own faults? Only God knows our hearts. Jesus knew the woman's heart and her need for mercy and forgiveness. He did not condemn her but offered her life and grace, and the way to stay in that grace: "Go and sin no more!" He knew the hearts of the Pharisees too, and He would not play their game: using the Law to condemn and trap, rather than the Law being used to draw others closer to God, as it had been originally intended. Let's make sure we focus on our interior lives, and not just the exterior: "man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7)

*This week is a good opportunity to hold a mirror up to ourselves rather than a magnifying glass to everyone else! The first thing we should hopefully see is a son/daughter of God, created in His image and likeness, and loved eternally. Are there flaws there that need changing? Not exterior ones, but the really important ones: how do I treat others? How is my relationship with God?*



Cast The First Stone - The Woman Caught In Adultery | Story Vault



How Can It Be - Lauren Daigle

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