

Last week, we learned that when one member of the Body of Christ (that's us, the baptised!) sins, it hurts the whole Church.

But it is also true, that the good chosen by each member of the One Body benefits the whole Body and our mission to the whole world!

When we choose to pray, make peace, or extend mercy, love or care to someone else, our actions have effects we can only imagine.

It's all about MERCY, received and offered!

This woman's sin brought her before the Lord, and he showed her mercy.

When people sin against us, we have a choice. Condemn them, and condemn ourselves at the same time. Or, consider this may be God's way of bringing attention to someone in need of mercy, and choose instead to pray for someone who may not know how to pray for themselves. By loving our enemies, we offer them an image of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Gospel of John Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them.

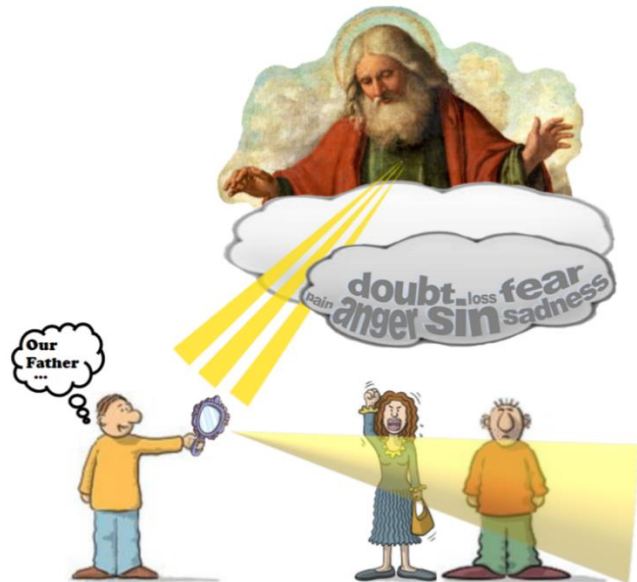
The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before the people, they said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to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

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When the scribes and Pharisees kept on questioning him, Jesus 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 Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground.

When the scribes and Pharisees hear what Jesus had said, 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."

Prayer of Intercession is asking God on behalf of another and is one way we know our hearts are in tune with God and his mercy. We remember Jesus who, while we were still sinners, interceded on our behalf. We remember Mary, who despite how her son was treated, continues to pray for us.



What is Jesus telling me?

Some suggest Jesus was using his finger to write the sins of the elders in the sand where they could see it. Whether or not this is true, not one felt they were blameless enough to cast the first stone. Jesus could have, but chose mercy instead.

Jesus does not dismiss the Old Testament law of Moses; he tells the woman to sin no more. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, though, offers this woman, and all of us, a way to avoid the just punishment of sin, which is death.

Jesus offers us mercy rather than judgement. Instead of punishment and death, Jesus offers us new life.

Am I grateful for the new life I have received?

Do I extend the mercy I have received to others, or do I hold a grudge against someone?

Ask Jesus for a forgiving heart, and offer your Lenten sacrifice by praying now for the good of someone you need to forgive.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

2840. Now – and this is daunting – this outpouring of mercy cannot penetrate our hearts as long as we have not forgiven those who have trespassed against us. Love, like the Body of Christ, is indivisible; we cannot love the God we cannot see if we do not love the brother or sister we do see. In refusing to forgive our brothers and sisters, our hearts are closed and their hardness makes them impervious to the Father’s merciful love; but in confessing our sins, our hearts are opened to his grace.

2843. It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession.

Spend 3 1/2 minutes If you can’t attend the [Stations of the Cross](#) at your church this year, try following along with these very short videos, one station each morning. Select “next station” to see the video and prayers for each of the 14 stations, and travel with Jesus during his last day on earth.

As Jesus travelled proclaiming the Kingdom of God, teaching, and healing the sick, great crowds of people followed him. They followed him to a mountain where he sat down to teach them many things, including how to pray. In the Lord’s Prayer which Jesus gave us on that mountain, he teaches us something about forgiveness, something we must remember to do as we ask Jesus to forgive us.

I am with you Jesus!



**Imagine someone
you need to forgive.**

**Draw them in the
arms of Jesus.**

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and _____ our trespasses
as _____ those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

We live this moment for what it really is, an extraordinary grace, a permanent miracle of divine tenderness, in which once again God’s Reconciliation, sister of Baptism, moves us, washes us with tears, regenerates us, restores to us the original beauty. ([Pope Francis, March 11, 2019](#))