

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
21st March 2010



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If you commit the crime you should do the time. This is something we hear a lot today, along with suggestions that some people should be locked up and the key thrown away. For all our pretence at civilisation and sophistication, we find ourselves in a society that is very far from the values of Jesus and particularly the core Christian value of forgiveness.

Sideline forgiveness allows us to be judgemental. It allows us to make comments about other people as if we were better than them, as if we were never guilty of sin ourselves; yet all our judgment is faulty, for we have all sinned. This is the pitiful scene that Jesus faced when they brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. Jesus seems not to be dismayed by

the woman's sin (and her partner whom we never meet). What does dismay him is the arrogance of the scribes and Pharisees who presume a "holier than thou" attitude towards the woman. And so, despite the carefully prepared trap to get him to be at odds with the Law, Jesus first sets about dismantling the judgemental hypocrisy of the accusers rather than tackling what the woman has done.

It's worth noting that forgiveness is not ours to give. Forgiveness comes from God and all we can do is to pass it on, just like love. God is love and our love is merely a sharing in his perfect love. God is forgiveness and when we forgive we are simply holding up a mirror to the God who has first forgiven each of us. "Our" forgiveness is simply a reflection. Of course, if we refuse to forgive then we cannot expect forgiveness for our trespasses. This has always been the simple message of the Our Father.

Very often when we judge others it is because we see the same fault in ourselves, and condemning the other person allows us to expiate our own frailty. Of course, Jesus did not praise the woman for what she had done; he told her to go away and sin no more. But what he did do is to prevent her from being judged by people who were as weak as she was but pretended to be better. Ring any bells?

LIVING AS ONE

The Church has been in existence for over two thousand years yet has remained constant and consistent. What the apostles learned from Jesus Christ, they passed on in turn. During this week, using Living As One, we will reflect on the living tradition which is passed from generation to generation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13-15). The five groups meet on:

Saturdays at 2.30pm at the Convent at 3 Longlands Close - 01992 621168

Mondays at 8pm at the Convent - 01992 621168

Thursdays at 2pm in the Presbytery - 01992 626772

Thursdays at 8pm at 31 Rotherfield Road, Enfield - 0208 292 8592

New and old members are most welcome.



100+ CLUB

You can still help us to reach 200 by joining for the rest of the year for just £10 per number. Please put your application in before the next draw on 28th March.

"OLD GIRLS" REUNION

Our Lady's Convent High School is holding a reunion on Sunday 9th May 2010 from 2-5pm at the school. This will be the last reunion in the old building as the new building works commence in September 2010. Conducted tours of the school are being held on Friday 7th May and Monday 10th May between 10am and 12.30pm **by appointment only**. Please telephone or email by Wednesday 5th May for an appointment on tel no: 0208 800 2158 or email: officeadmin@ourlady.sch.uk

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

There will be Training and Renewal Sessions for the Eucharistic Ministers of the Parish. The first Session will be on Sunday 11th April starting at 2.30pm in Eleanor Hall. This will be for all existing Ministers, and for all those who are willing to become a Minister. It will be led by Mary Crowley from the Diocese of Westminster. The Second Session will be on Sunday 18th April at 2.30pm.

We do need some more people willing to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, in particular at the 12.30 and 6.30 Masses on a Sunday. If you are willing to help, please see Fr John.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: "What marvels
the Lord worked for them!"
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Seek good and not evil so that you may live,
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

Isaiah 43:16-21	Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalms 125	Psalms 21
Philippians 3:8-14	Philippians 2:6-11
John 8:1-11	Luke 22:14-23:56

Mass Times

SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday		10.00am
Wednesday		10.00am
Thursday	Annunciation of the Lord	10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday		6.30pm
SUNDAY	PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –

Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1,286.73

plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

SVP

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

ST JOSEPH'S MARIAN GROUP

St Joseph's Marian Group meets in the Sacristy at 10.45am on Tuesday mornings.

LINE DANCING

There is Line Dancing every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in Eleanor Hall.

RCIA

The RCIA Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation Preparation is at 8.00pm on Thursday evenings in the Church.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for the parents of children being prepared for First Communion at 8.00pm on Thursday 25th March in Eleanor Hall.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Station of the Cross Each Friday during Lent after 10.00am Mass and 8.00pm.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

Sunday 21st March at 12.30pm - Ashley Omo-Irogbo
Saturday 27th March at 12.00pm - Cameron Maden

WEDDING THIS WEEK

Saturday 27th March at 1.00pm:
Enzo di Piazza and Helena Hapeshi

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Altar server training will take place on Saturday 27th March at 3pm.

APF

Thank you to the APF box holders in the parish for raising over £350 in the recent collection. The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) assists every one of the Catholic Church's 1,062 mission dioceses and territories to provide pastoral care and preach the Gospel effectively. The APF works in England and Wales with the Mill Hill Missionary Society, the only major missionary society to have been formed in England. Mill Hill was one of the first societies to introduce lay missionaries, and its priests, lay brothers and associates work in 27 countries and every continent. In England and Wales funds for the Missions are collected through the famous red collection boxes. If you would like to assist the work of the APF, and would like a red collection box, please contact Terry O'Sullivan on 01992 444 642 or see Father John.

FAIRTRADE STALL

The Fairtrade Stall will be in operation after each Mass next weekend, at its normal place by the Repository.

**SPRING RAFFLE**

Don't forget to collect your Raffle Tickets after Mass today. The Draw will take place at the Fair on Sunday 25th April. Sell the tickets to your friends and neighbours.