

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



3 April 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sin no more

What motivated the Pharisees in that confrontation about sin and punishment? They caught a woman in the act of adultery and brought her into the Temple precincts, thronged with people, to shame her as publicly as possible. Then they wanted to carry out the death penalty as laid down in the Torah, namely death by stoning. As an added extra, they wanted to use the occasion to discredit Jesus in the eyes of his followers. “*What have you to say?*” they demand of him. If his response was simply, “*Leave the woman alone; let her go free,*” they could accuse him of condoning adultery. But if he agreed with their sentence, he would be seen as lacking in mercy. Jesus saw through their plotting and made them withdraw in confusion.

What did Jesus write with his finger on the ground? The Gospel gives us a possible clue. It does not use the normal Greek word for “write” (*graphein*), but (*kata-graphein*) which means to draw up a condemnation. Possibly he may have listed on the ground some common sins against humanity, to make them think. At any rate, his challenge that the person who was without sin should cast the first stone met with no response. Although Jesus did not condemn the woman, neither did he excuse what she had done. “*Don’t sin any more,*” was both a pardon and a warning to her.



To judge from today’s gospel, the worst of the *seven deadly sins* seems to be not lust, but pride. The Pharisees’ self-righteousness left them feeling no need to ask God for mercy.

Like the Pharisees, we may be tempted to imagine a God in our own image and likeness, as a stern, punitive father, who can be persuaded to forgive only after our abject repentance. This kind of religion can be cold and loveless. And as St Paul says in the 2nd Reading, trying to relate to God just by strictly keeping the Law is an obsolete kind of religion. Only when we let God’s love, as seen in Christ, to embrace and change our heart, can we begin to grow.

Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 3 April - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.00am
11.00am

Tuesday 5 April - FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Wednesday 6 April - FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Thursday 7 April – FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Friday 8 April – FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

7.00pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00pm

Stations of the Cross from 6.15pm

CONFESSIONS: After Mass or by appointment.

OUR PARISH

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOOD ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE

Parish Priest: Fr Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Office (Wed 9.00am - 12.00pm)

Parish Administrator – Suzanne Quinn

General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French

Email: mail@matthewfrench.net

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

*Give me justice, O God, and plead my
cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.*

Gospel Acclamation - Joel 2:12-13

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal
glory! Now, now – it is the Lord who
speaks – come back to me with all your
heart, for I am all tenderness and
compassion. Praise to you, O Christ, king
of eternal glory!*

Communion Antiphon

*Has no one condemned you, woman?
No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you.
From now on, sin no more.*

PARISH NEWS

EASTER DAY COLLECTION: The Easter collection supports our parish priest directly, in grateful thanks for his dedication, service and witness throughout the year. If you would like to give a gift to support Father Leslie in his mission and ministry this Easter, please visit this website: <https://bit.ly/3JqFeUO>

EASTER FLOWERS: There will be a collection next Sunday 10 April for the flowers that will decorate our church at Easter.

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY NEWSPAPER: The Universe is now available as a digital newspaper. Try a four-week trial for free by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

BRIDGE CLUB: Every Monday from 1.30pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome, including those who have never played before.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE: If you can help with preparing refreshments after the 11.00am Sunday Mass, please contact Suzanne in the office.

PREPARING FOR EASTER: We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart. Confessions are available on request or after Mass. Please speak to Father Leslie.



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION - LENT
Lord Jesus Christ, you know how we long to savour your sweetness in Holy Communion, and yet this is a time of fast. Help us to remember that in the fast which you undertook in the wilderness for the good of the world, you remained full of confidence in your Father's love, unflinching in the mission you had received, and unflinchingly thankful for the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Fill us in the same way, that in this present hour we may not lose our sense of hope and gratitude, so that when this time of fast comes to an end we may truly say with ever greater joy: *"Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed are they who put their trust in him"*.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

You can donate directly into the bank account:

**PRCDTR Bournemouth
Our Lady Immaculate**

Sort code: 309304 Account: 00875075

Thank you for your continued support.

PRAYERS PLEASE

Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially:

Teresa Wraith,
Win Sheridan, Kathleen Wood,
Phillip Rockford, Germain McAulay,
Geoffrey Dixon, Joe Bonnici,
Marjorie Lee

Instead of judging, the accusers must examine themselves

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 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.

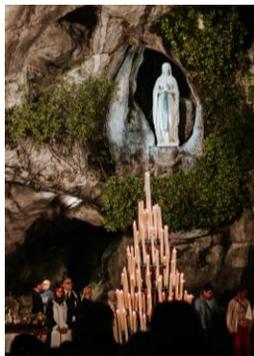
When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, *“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”* She said, *“No one, sir.”* And Jesus said, *“Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”*



HOLY WEEK SERVICES: The times of our Holy Week services will be published in next week's newsletter.

UKRAINE: The Diocese, through Caritas, is working to keep parishioners informed as to the current situation while we wait for the UK Government to clarify the role that faith organisations and other charities will play in the formal response to refugees entering the UK. Please look at the Caritas news and events page: <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

CAFOD: Ukraine humanitarian Appeal Ukraine crisis: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis>



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2022: This will take place from Monday 18 to Friday 22 July 2022, flying from Bournemouth Airport. The cost of the pilgrimage is £675 per person (based on 2 people sharing a room). Single rooms are available at a supplement.

Those aged 15 – 35 volunteer to support the pilgrimage by helping with music, the liturgy, companionship for our pilgrims, and physically supporting those in need such as people in wheelchairs. The cost for a youth pilgrim is £575.00. For further information, click on the following link: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/lourdes