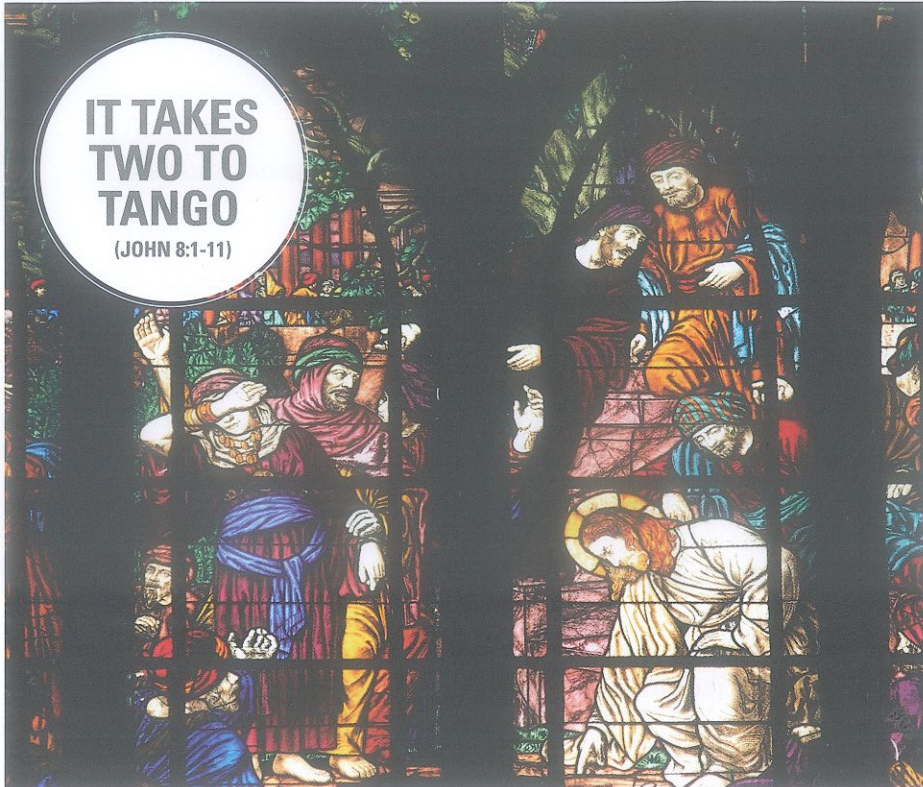


THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



IT TAKES
TWO TO
TANGO

(JOHN 8:1-11)

Stained glass scene, in the Church of Saint-Jean de Montmartre, of Christ and the woman caught in adultery

The flowing narrative in our gospel reading today from John is quite unlike the style of the Fourth Evangelist and reminds the reader more of the stories in the account of Luke.

Jesus is put on the spot by his critics and asked for his opinion as to what should be done about a woman caught in the act of adultery. Jesus is being judged; but he turns the process around and focuses it on the characters who want to catch him out.

The judgment of the Law is clear: the woman should be stoned to death. But the point of the confrontation is not the fate of the unnamed woman; it is to find something with which to accuse and convict Jesus. It is a case of Jesus versus Moses, and so there should be no question of the outcome.

Jesus refuses to engage in the debate, but rather challenges his self-righteous opponents to initiate the sentence of death. They and all the others apparently melt away, until Jesus and the woman are left alone, and for the first time she is addressed directly. Jesus does not judge her, but offers her the possibility of a new life and a restored relationship with God, when he says "Do not sin again". The past is over, forgiven and forgotten; what matters is the new life from now on. ■

LEARN

In the Fourth Gospel, the opponents of Jesus are generally referred to simply as "the Jews".

The term 'the Jews' usually refers to the members of the religious and political establishment, not to the people as a whole.

In the Synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, these characters are described as "the chief priests, the scribes and the elders": they are the ones who bring about the crucifixion of Jesus.

The Pharisees were lay leaders, based locally in the synagogue.

REFLECT

Adultery requires at least two participants. It is significant that only the female partner is dragged before Jesus. Jesus' response is to offer the unnamed woman the opportunity of a new beginning. He does not condemn her, he does not criticise the Law to which his opponents appealed, but rather he challenges his opponents to act on their own convictions – and be convicted themselves in the process.

As with all gospel stories, we are being asked, 'whose side are you on?' Are you with the religious authorities who parade this unfortunate woman in public to Jesus as a test case? Are you with Jesus, who refuses to sit in judgment? We are not told whether the woman was involved in this affair through passion or simply through poverty. And what about the man involved, who apparently escapes scot-free?

The only individual person with whom Jesus interacts directly in this episode is the unnamed woman who is, in many ways, the unwitting excuse for the attack on Jesus. They are left alone, once all the others have sided off when Jesus challenges them to declare themselves innocent and so entitled to stand in judgment and exact the penalty. Jesus treats the woman with respect; he speaks to her properly and offers her the chance of a new start. That is the message of Lent, that we are all being presented with the opportunity to begin again with a clean slate. We can stand with the woman's accusers, with the woman herself, or with Jesus. Where do you stand in this story? ■

DO

Find out about the refuge for women in your local area and the reasons why women end up there.

SAY

No need to recall the past: the Lord is doing something new

(see Isaiah 43:18, 19)



NEWSLETTER

3RD APRIL 2022

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

Fr. Stan Deegan Tel: 044-9374127 0872673655.

Email: parishofkillucan@gmail.com

www.parishofkillucan.ie Facebook: Killucan Parish

The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 3rd, 11.30am. Laurence & Rita O'Rourke. Michael & Kathleen Farrell. Brian Urwin.

Sunday 10th, 11.30am. Paddy Cooney. Adrain Ennis. Sean & John Keegan. Mary Duff.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Saturday 2nd, 6pm. John, Stephen & Jenny McManus. George & Ethel Eagles. Jack & Philomena Anderson.

Sunday 10th, 10am. Peter Farrelly.

Weekday Masses; Tues & Thurs, Raharney. Wed & Fri Rathwire.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €621
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €709

Joe Crowe, Walkinstown. Son of Mary Crowe.

Holy Week Ceremonies: Wednesday 13th at 7pm in the Cathedral with the Mass of Chrism.

Holy Thursday parish Mass of the Lord's Supper; Rathwire 7.30pm.

Good Friday; Passion of the Lord 3pm in Rathwire. Stations of the Cross Raharney 8.30pm

Easter Vigil Saturday in Rathwire at 9pm.

Easter Sunday Dawn Mass at Kilholm Cemetery & morning Masses at usual times

"Charity Concert in aid of 'Mothers Of Ukraine' in The TLT Theatre, Drogheda, on Wed 13th April, 8pm.

Performances from renowned Irish Artists Maria Butterly, Sean Keane, Donal Lunny, Paddy Glackin, St

Peters Male Voice Choir with MD Edward Holly, Vladimir – Violinist & Bill Shanley. Tix €22.50 from

TLT Box Office www.thetlt.ie

The Essential Key

Lent and Easter provide us with the opportunity "to go forth weeping so that we can come back rejoicing," so that we can "turn to the Lord and live." (Responsorial Psalm) The challenge is personal conversion.

The challenge is also social conversion, the transformation of the world. We are not to retreat from the world into a closet of private spirituality; rather, we ask God in this Lenten season "to help us to embrace the world you have given us, that we may transform the darkness of its pain into the life and joy of Easter."

It is easy for the Christian to take a self-righteous attitude toward the world; it is much more difficult to take Jesus' attitude: "Neither do I condemn you: go and do not sin again." All of us have contributed to the darkness of the world; none of us can cast the first stone.

Easter is on its way. God is preparing a new world order for us: "Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!" Having done our part to bring the darkness, will we now participate in doing something new?

We know as Christians that the most effective response to the ills of the world is ours to make, the duty to seek justice and equality resides with each of us. Here, in the painfully slow changing of our own lives and in the agony of living out our vocations, lies the essential key to a more decent and more human world.

U.S. Bishops, To Do the Work of Justice,

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:
Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.
Take one Hour with the Lord