

# 5th Sunday in Lent

(Isaiah 43.16-21, Philippians 3.8-14, John 8.1-11)

**THEME: Do Not Condemn Other People**

The readings of this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent brings to our attention again the mercy of God our Father: A Father that always forgives our guilt and gives us another chance to live good lives. He is slow in condemning us but rich in mercy and love towards us, his children. God forgives and forgets our sins.

In line with this merciful mind of God towards us, the first reading today says, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Is. 43.21)

God is telling us, that when He forgives our sins, He gives us new life and a new beginning. That in difficult moments in our lives, he will see us through not minding mistakes or sins.

In the same way, God wants us to treat others. He wants us to have a soft heart towards others and forgive them. God is calling us today in special way to stop condemning others bearing in mind that we are also sinners. For in one way or another we have sinned against God or others. This message came out glaringly in the gospel narrative today. Look at how all the crowd came out with stones, to condemn and stone the poor woman who was caught sinning.

Brothers and Sisters, are we still behaving this way towards others? Do we still condemn others, through gossiping? Or are we always deriving joy talking about other peoples' mistakes in life or failings? Even in our families, do we still remind our husbands, wives, children, brothers and sisters, or even our parents of their past mistakes every time we have a little quarrel?

Today, God wants us to learn from Him, by being slow to condemn other people, and to forget the past. Let us, like Christ, be full of mercy and love towards others.