

www.sjti.ac.za/resources_homily.htm

First Reading: 2 Samuel 12:7-10,13
Response: *"Forgive, Lord, the guilt of my sin"* (Ps.31:5)
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 31:1,2,5,7,11.
Second Reading: Galatians 2:16,19-21
Gospel: Luke 7:36-8:3

The Risen Lord is in our midst as a merciful God. When we repent and confess our sins, he forgives us. His being part of humanity is our rising to new life in his resurrection. He conquers sin and death and gives us new life.

God gave King David "*the House of Israel and of Judah*" (2 Sam.12:8). David uses his authority for personal gain by killing an innocent man and taking his wife.

"You have shown contempt for the Lord" (2 Sam.12:9), says the prophet Nathan. David confesses "*I have sinned against the Lord*" (2 Sam.12:13). God forgave him for his repentance, "*the Lord for his part, forgives your sin*" (2 Sam.12:13).

The psalm today is one of the seven penitential psalms in the Bible. It also expresses David's great joy of being forgiven. "*Happy the man whose offence is forgiven*" (Ps.31:1).

The sinner acknowledges that when confessing "*my offence to the Lord*" (Ps.31:5), he can proclaim the merciful love of God "*You, Lord have forgiven the guilt of my sin*" (Ps.31:5).

Paul, preaching divine forgiveness, shows how we are saved, not by keeping the law but by faith in Jesus Christ. "*We hold that faith in Christ rather than fidelity to the Law is what justifies us*" (Gal.2:16).

Union with Christ is the source of holiness, love and forgiveness. "*I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me*" (Gal.2:20).

The Gospel shows Jesus forgiving a sinful woman. Her sins are washed away even as "*her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them away with her hair*" (Lk.7:38). She showed how much she believed in Jesus, waiting "*behind him at his feet, weeping*" (Lk.7:38).

We see how forgiveness and love go together. The woman's "*many sins must have been forgiven her, or she would not have shown such great love*" (Lk.7:47), whereas Simon the Pharisee, Jesus' host, has not shown such love and hospitality. "*The man who is forgiven little shows little love*" (Lk.7:47).

Jesus continues his mission "*through towns and villages, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of God*" (Lk.8:1).

Read in the **Gospel**, how Jesus forgives sins (Lk.7:36-8:3).

Examine moments we confess and are forgiven. Sacraments of **Penance** and **Eucharist**.

Study **Teaching** and meaning of sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Witness to good life by making a daily examination of conscience and express love of God.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Read the Gospel. See how Jesus forgives sin (Lk.7:36-8:3).

How does Jesus forgive us our sins today? Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Give Teaching on forgiveness and the sacraments.

Encourage trust and love for Jesus and to seek forgiveness for our sins. (Witness)

FOR TEENAGERS (*Shared Christian Praxis*)

Name the Present Action: *What is your understanding of forgiveness?*

Your Story and Vision: *What is your experience and expectations of the sacraments of forgiveness, viz. Eucharist and Reconciliation?*

Church's Story and Vision: *Give traditional teaching on forgiveness and sacraments.*

Yours and Church's Vision: *Seek forgiveness and work with Church for the building of the Kingdom.*

RCIA

Sin is before all else an offence against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time it damages communion with the Church. For this reason conversion entails both God's **forgiveness** and **reconciliation** with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (i)

(i) *The Catechism of the Catholic Church: #1440).*

LIFE EXPERIENCE

The new liturgical translation in South Africa expresses loud and clear the words "*Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa*" (through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault). The world does not attend our liturgy. Perhaps the Church needs to make these words loud and clear for all to hear. We have to humbly face the world and say '*mea culpa*' for the scandal in the Church. Let the hierarchy, who rules the Church, serve more humbly and admit mistakes. Give our people loving guidance with a readiness to learn, *ecclesia discens*. We have to witness, as Theogonis would say, "a sense of shame" (i) and show that "wrong does not conquer right." (ii)

(i) **THEOGONIS**. 'Elegies'. Translated by **Dorothea Wender**. Penguin Classics. London, UK. 1973. p.106.

(ii) *Ibid.*

LITTLE ANGELINA

"Its me, Angelina," she said, "I came to Confession because my mother told me to."

"Have you any sins to confess?"

"No, but my mother thinks I have, because I fought with my friend."

"Isn't that a sin?"

"No, because she hit me first."

"And you hit her back?"

"Yes."

I shall have to teach you what is a sin."

"Yes please," she said, "and teach my mother too."

I promised her I would, gave her a blessing and told her to go in peace.

IMPORTANT: 'Confess your sins to God'

God sees everything. It is foolish to hide our sins or try to cover up. We only get into deeper water. Unconfessed sin in our lives dries up the wells of living water (*Jn.7:38*) from our inmost being. Come to God and confess. He will forgive and cleanse you. In going to Confession, we express the intention of abandoning sin and make a commitment to change, which St. Columba describes "turning a poisoned well into a healing spring of water." (i)

(i) **BRADLEY** Ian. 'Colonies of Heaven. Celtic Christian Communities'. 'Living the Tradition.' Northstone. Dartman, Longman & Todd. London, UK. 2000. p.79.

Watchword: “*Your sins are forgiven*” (Lk.7:48)

Hebrew: נִסְחַרְלַךְ חַטָּאֵיִךְ

Nislehu-lak hato'thayk.

Greek: Ἀφεωνται σου αι αμαρτια

Apheontai sou hai hamartiai.

Latin: Remissa sunt peccata tua.

Remittuntur tibi peccata.

Portuguese: Os teus pecados te são perdoados.

Spanish: **Tus pecados te son perdonados.**

French: Tes peches sont pardones.

German: Dir sind deine Sünden vergeben.

Afrikaans: Jou sondes is vergewe.

Zulu: Uthethelelwe izono zakho.

Xhosa: **Izono zakho zixolelwe.**

Sotho: O tshwaretswa dibe tsa hao.

Irish: Ta do pheacai maite.