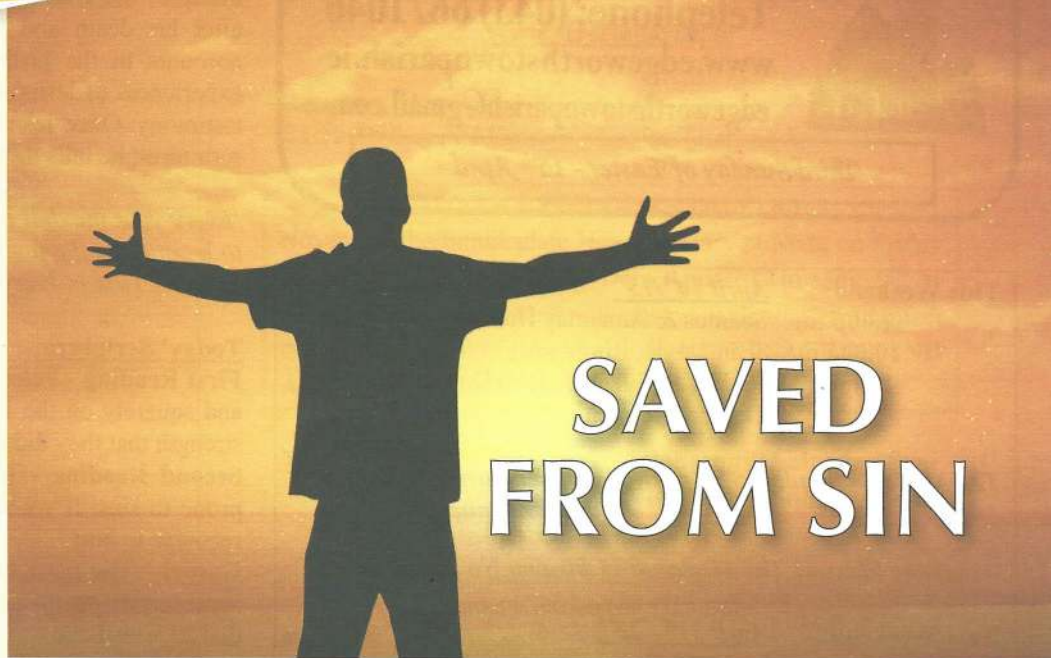


Parish Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER | 15 APRIL 2018
YEAR B | ISSUE 20

Talk of the 'sin bin' in sport, carbon sinning (in the sense of contributing to the pollution of the environment) and other variations on the theme could suggest that sin is solely a secular idea without any reference or relevance to the moral and spiritual lives of believers. The reality check of evil and its effects in the world reveals that nothing could be further from the truth. Sin is evil seen through the lens of faith. If a loss of faith leads to a loss of a sense of sin, the lack of a sense of sin is a sign of the need to speak seriously about the need for salvation. Sin is a violation of God's law, a rupture of relationships with God and others. Sin is the refusal to love God and neighbour, to look beyond self-concern as the only criterion of what matters.

Each of today's readings refers to sin. Peter admonishes his audience, advising them 'to repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out'. The call to conversion is a continual one, not confined to Lent. Turning to God involves turning away from sin throughout the whole of one's life. Saint John speaks of Christ as 'the sacrifice that takes our sins away'. Turning to God and having one's sins taken away is conversion on course to salvation. The purpose of Christ's sacrifice and the purification from sin is presented



SAVED FROM SIN

positively, so that 'God's love comes to perfection' in us. Saint Luke speaks of proclaiming to all peoples 'repentance for the forgiveness of sins'.

'It is the road of mercy, on which we meet so many of our brothers and sisters who reach out for someone to take their hand and become a companion on the way.'

— Pope Francis
(*Misericordia et Misera*)

The fruit of forgiveness of sins is freedom from the tendency and temptation to destroy oneself and others, freedom from spiritual death. The prayers of today's Mass express the Easter mystery of salvation. This is the renewal and restoration that results in rejoicing so that 'we may look forward in confident hope'. 'Given cause for such great gladness' the Church hopes 'in perpetual happiness' so that we

can enjoy 'the incorruptible glory of the Resurrection'. The measure of the Church's remedy for sin is not the meting out of penalties but meeting the mercy of God. This is the message of salvation, of being forgiven and set free to experience and exhibit the freedom of the children of God. Living the Christian life leads away from the death of sin. This is the light of the Easter Christ that extinguishes the darkness. ■

— Kevin O'Gorman SMA

THIS WEEK (16–22 APRIL)

- 16 **Mon** St Bernadette Soubirous
- 17 **Tue** St Stephen Harding; St Robert
- 18 **Wed** St Laserian, bishop
- 19 **Thur** St Fortunata
- 20 **Fri** St Beuno
- 21 **Sat** St Anselm
- 22 **Sun** FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS



Acts 4:8-12
Psalm 117:1-8-9,21-23,26,28-29
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

Reflection

How does the call to repentance continue to resonate in me?

Lesson

'Above all, love is greater than sin, than weakness; it is stronger than death; it is a love always ready to raise up and forgive, always ready to go to meet the prodigal son' (Saint Pope John Paul II, *Redemptori hominis* –The Redeemer of Humanity, 9).

Prayer

Lord, lead me from darkness to light, from sin to salvation, from death to life.