

GENDER DESK STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

08 MARCH 2021

The Lectionary's Old Testament reading for yesterday Sunday the 07 March 2021 was in Exodus 34:29-35.

Today is International Women's Day, a day we should be normally celebrating, the contributions, strengths, and roles women play in our homes, societies, and the world at large. However, under the current circumstances, we lament as women are subjected to gross gender based violence.

We are now so accustomed, inured to living with masks on our faces. We are contented to living with a greater degree of inconspicuousness as we come in and out of our congregations and in our homes. It is an easy way of concealing, the real us behind the masks. Covering up for the people not to see the real happenings in our faces is what we do. The snag that we have is to really identify who we are meeting up with, despite having known them for years even as we see the speck in their eyes. It is a struggle to see the expression on their faces and gauge their mood, whether they are gratified to see us. It is even more grim to know how to approach and react as the person approaches. We only rely on what comes out of their mouth which, sometimes, is also difficult to tell whether the person is thrilled to see you. We do not know whether we are to receive the good news or the bad news, whether we will live after being in contact with the person or die. It is sometimes only this period when something is said that we are able to