

Theme of the Week - The Beloved

In the Gospel last week, we explored the temptations experienced by the very human nature of Jesus. In the Gospel on Sunday, we see the event of the Transfiguration, which affirmed the dual nature of Jesus as both man and God. Being both man and God can sometimes be difficult for us to understand. However, this is the foundation of our Church and our faith as a whole.

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus is beginning his journey towards Jerusalem and the fate that awaits him there. However, the start of this journey is delayed by this awesome moment of revelation that we know as the Transfiguration - the moment when Jesus is gloried and revealed as the Beloved Son of God, the Messiah. The voice from heaven echoes those words spoken at the baptism of Jesus. We see the appearance of Moses and Elijah with Jesus and we might ask ourselves, why out of all the people from the Old Testament, why these two? The first possible reason is that they encapsulate the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) and all the times in the Old Testament where the Passion and the resurrection of Jesus is foretold, we hear of them. Here, Moses and Elijah signify to the Apostles that what is about to happen to Jesus has long been part of the plan of the promise of God whose love endures forever. However, the second significance of these two individuals is when we actually look back at their own encounters with God. Moses in the Old Testament protested to God that he was the wrong person to do the work of God and Elijah in the Old Testament felt overwhelmed in his ministry. But both always had the support and protection from God.

In our own lives, we are also confronted with these times of struggle. We strive to be faithful to the Gospels, but we can find many excuses that hold us back. Ultimately, though, our vocation is to always desire and at last attain the glory that belongs to Jesus by nature, and is offered to us by adoption. We have more reasons than Moses and Elijah to protest that we are not up to the challenge, but God's response is the same to them as it is to us. He does not dispute that we are weak, he knows it very well but he promises never to leave us, and to give us everything we need to do his will, no matter how big the obstacle is.

We must not repeat the reluctance of the disciples to believe and understand "They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean". We already have the whole picture. Just as Jesus was revealed as the beloved Son of God, we too can take our place as beloved children of God. What glimpses of the glory do you see in your daily life? Can you recall an event where you saw someone in a completely new light? This week, try as a follower of Jesus, to respond to people with greater generosity, forgiveness, acceptance and love.

The Beloved

Weekly Reflections
25th February 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (9:2-10)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, we pray.

O Lord, with a blessing that endures for ever, keep us faithful to the Gospel of your only begotten Son, so that we may always desire and at last attain that glory shown in your Son to the amazement of his Apostles.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Saint of the week - St David - 1st March



St David (Dewi Sant in Welsh) is the patron saint of Wales and he is one of the best known Saints. He was a preacher, teacher and missionary. David travelled widely, establishing 12 monasteries; amongst them were Glastonbury and Bath. He gave up all personal possessions, did not consume any meat (thus, David represents vegetarians) and would immerse himself in freezing water to aid contemplation. David was:

Learned and Wise

Day 1

At the Transfiguration, what individuals were present?

Why do you think these individuals were chosen by God to be present at this spectacular event?

Day 2

How did you feel when you have discovered someone or something in a completely different light for the better?

How can you be seen in a different light this week for the better?

Day 3

Each day three of each week in Lent will be given to pray two Stations of the Cross:

Station 3: Jesus is condemned to the Sanhedrin

Station 4: Jesus is denied by Peter