

## Theme of the Week - Transfiguration

The event described from the Gospel of Luke on Sunday is 'the Transfiguration'. And let's reflect on the beginning of the Gospel; "Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray." Just try to imagine this, this very humble, ordinary thing Jesus might do. And when we think about it, it's something ordinary we do, with our loved ones, whether at home, school or Church; we give time over to pray with our loved ones around us. Although the place it occurred is not mentioned in Scripture, it has long been associated with Mt Tabor in Galilee. And when we think of a mountain we may imagine this huge elevated piece of land that may have taken days to climb. But Mt Tabor isn't overly huge, actually sometimes it is called a large hill. However, this simple start of a story turns into something quite miraculous. The white robes and change of appearance in Jesus represented his glory and divinity, and this is what was being revealed to his most trusted disciples on this day. This is followed by the cloud both symbolises the presence of God, and also conceals it, thereby protecting the witnesses from the full force of God's glory.

The reference to Moses and Elijah links Jesus with two of the greatest people in Israel's history, both of whom had encounters with God on mountains. The meeting was a private experience for Jesus, as the disciples were asleep whilst it took place. Like Jesus, both these holy men lived lives for God and suffered rejection by their people. However, the voice from the cloud, the hidden presence of God, reveals Jesus' divine identity and encourages the disciples to listen to him. All that the Law (represented by Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) stood for will be accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus

This Second Sunday of Lent celebrates ways that God's divine presence is revealed. Sometimes, like Peter, we can misunderstand God's revelations. Sometimes we may see God through the actions and words of others but sometimes overlook or dismiss what we are seeing or hearing. We too may give time for prayer and contemplation like Jesus did, yet it is also not possible for us to remain forever on the mountain; we must come down and continue our journey like Jesus did. We leave the place of worship to start again on the road of everyday life with all its cares and concerns, but to carry with it the hope that is only possible through faith.

The 19<sup>th</sup> March is St Joseph's Day. The husband of Mary and Jesus' foster-father. The divine pregnancy of his betrothed was revealed in an angelic vision, Joseph was **Attentive** to the message given to him and **Discerning** in doing the right thing, accepting his future role of being a caring and nurturing father and raising Jesus and training Him as a carpenter. How are you able to be **Attentive** and **Discerning** like Joseph when he listened to the Angel that spoke to him? How important is it to have times of quiet contemplation in your journey? In what ways do you balance prayer and action in living your faith in everyday life?

# Transfiguration

Weekly Reflections  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent



## From the Gospel of Luke (9: 28b-36)

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

## Prayer for the Week

Lord of All,  
Open our hearts and ears to you, and fill us with the peace that only you can  
give,  
Through Christ our Lord  
Amen

### Day 1

Who was originally with Jesus when he went to pray?  
Who appears and what is said by God later in the Gospel?  
Why do you think the event of the Transfiguration is important to us as followers of Jesus?

### Day 2

Why do you think the appearance of Moses and Elijah with Jesus is important?  
How can you be more **attentive** in listening to Jesus and **Discern** this in your actions?

### Day 3

Each day three of each week in Lent will be given to pray three Stations of the Cross. This week please pray:  
Station 7: Jesus carries the Cross  
Station 8: Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene  
Station 9: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

## Catholic Social Teaching - Solidarity

By coming together in hope as individuals, families, communities, organisations and nations, we can achieve transformative change for the common good. When we unite and make a stand for what we believe in, we can achieve remarkable things

*"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security...while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: 'Give them something to eat' (Mark 6:37)."* Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*,

49

How this half term can you promote Solidarity in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?