

Second Sunday of Lent

Our Lord invited Peter, James and John, to leave behind everyday concerns and accompany him up a mountain. While at prayer on the summit he seemed to be wholly taken up into another world. When all was peace and quiet they were enveloped in a cloud and given a glimpse of their master's inner power and glory. For a blinding instant the veil separating the visible from the invisible was removed and they had to shield their eyes against the dazzling brightness as the glory of the Lord shone about them.

When God the Father's voice thundered from the cloud: 'This is my Son, listen to him,' they were overcome with fear and, filled with awe and reverence, fell to the ground on their faces. The vision passed and they were back to the harsh realities of life.

Coming down the mountain Jesus told his friends that the road ahead would lead to Calvary and the cross. These three disciples who had witnessed Jesus in glory would shortly see him reduced to a point of deep human weakness during his agony on that dreadful night in the garden of Gethsemane.

The transfiguration on the mountain was meant to strengthen their faith and hope and encourage them to persevere through this future ordeal.

The story of the transfiguration is a good example of the strength and assurance we can get from prayer while facing the difficulties of life. The purpose of Christ's ascent was to seek divine guidance in quiet prayer. If we are to discover what God's plan is for us, we need periods of peace and tranquility so that God's voice is not crowded out.

It always happens that the more we come to know God the better we come to know ourselves. Prayer is about being in the presence of God, listening to him and experiencing his strength in our movement through life. It gives us courage and confidence and helps us to confirm that, as we journey on our pilgrimage from youth to age there is a purpose and an end in view, that God is calling us home. He may not call us to unknown places as Abraham was called but he does summon each of us to trust him as we meet the challenges of daily living.

Prayer helps us to see the world through the eyes of God. While it doesn't remove or take away our problems it helps us to face them bravely.

We are all on the road to Calvary and are constantly tested by disappointments and trials on the way. Christ promises a heavenly future to all willing to share the hardship on that pathway.

We can only be true disciples by sharing our faith and assisting others making the journey in our company. God encourages others through us — not in a mysterious way but in the human words and kindly actions we show them. In this way the glory of the Lord shines through our lives and we grow brighter as we are turned into the image of the one we are to reflect.

Prayer of the Faithful

Priest. Let us turn with confidence to God Our Father who has promised us a glorified life in the image of his Son as we make our prayers to him:

We pray for our Holy Father and the bishops of the church. May they courageously lead their people as they preach the nearness of God's kingdom. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who are earnestly searching for the truth. May they discover guidance in Jesus who is a light shining in the darkness. **Lord, hear us.**

Help us to listen to the voice of Christ when he challenges us to be patient, kind, charitable and forgiving towards those who hurt and harm us. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who are sick. May they realise how precious their sufferings are in the eyes of God when joined to the sufferings of Christ. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the dead. May they enjoy eternal rest and perpetual light. **Lord, hear us.**

We now join our prayers with those of Mary our Mother, as we pray...**HAIL MARY...**

Let us now pray for a few moments in silence...

Priest. Heavenly Father, enlighten our darkness, show us the path that leads to eternal life. May we never fail to take up our cross which comes to us in so many different ways. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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