

2nd Sunday of Lent

Liturgy preparation for 1st Sunday of Lent

It's only the second week of Lent, but we may already be feeling the need of a boost for our spirits, and today's gospel provides one. On this day we read of the unique even in the life of Jesus, his divinity showing with dazzling brilliance in his human body, shining through the clothes he was wearing. The glory of God appeared for a brief time on earth.

First Reading

(Gen 22: 1-2; 9-12; 15-18). This is an abbreviated account of the testing of Abraham's obedience and faith when God asks him to sacrifice his only son. But the episode has a happy outcome.

Second Reading

(Rom 8:31-34). This brief extract asserts that God cannot refuse anything to those for whom Christ gave his life and for whom he now intercedes at God's right hand.

Gospel Reading

(Mk 9:2-10). This is an account of the mysterious event, Christ's transfiguration, which his divinity shone through this humanity.

We may think that we give glory to God only by our worship and prayer, or simply by following certain ethical norms. It is true that the primacy belongs to our relationship with God, but we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others. Prayer is most precious, for it nourishes a daily commitment to love. Our worship becomes pleasing to God when we devote ourselves to living generously, and allow God's gift, granted, in prayer, to be shown in our concern for our brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate, 104

Mary's Meals – Crisis in Ethiopia

The people of Tigray in northern Ethiopia, are living in fear of imminent starvation. The brutal fighting, taking place away from the eyes of the world, has forced many to flee their homes. The city of Mekelle is being overwhelmed by displaced people arriving with nothing at all. Many of them are unaccompanied children who have lost their parents.

Probably amongst those children are some who used to eat Mary's Meals at school, because before this conflict we were serving 24,230 children in the region each day.

Mary's Meals are now working with the Daughters of Charity to respond to this crisis and provide support to children and families affected by this crisis.

As people of faith we are asking you to partner with us by holding the people of Tigray and the emergency work we are doing there in your prayers. To find out more about the appeal please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk

Also join us in prayer on YouTube for our Global rosary for Mary. www.youtube.com/channel/UCVdudhhq8RRrcO213l6JqTw/

