



St John's Weekly News 14th February 2021

A message from Fr Christopher's desk.

This week we celebrate Jesus's Transfiguration, when his clothes appeared dazzling white to His disciples, and his glory was revealed to them before He started His last journey to Jerusalem and the Cross. Rather than staying up the mountain, Jesus descended again to be with humanity in the pain of His suffering and death. He is with us in our current suffering, though that is of course different for each of us, as we all go through our own particular trials at the moment. It also means that in His resurrection, which we start the journey to as Lent begins this week, our own troubles are transfigured. It reminds us of the hope that Jesus gives us, and we pray particularly this year of course that Easter really will bring change and transformation in our lives.

May God bless you as we begin our Lenten fast, confident in the resurrection which we prepare for at the end of it.

Fr Christopher

GOSPEL Mark 9:2-9.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The transfiguration of Jesus is a story told in the New Testament when Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain. The Synoptic Gospels describe it, and the Second Epistle of Peter also refers to it.

The Feast of the Transfiguration is the Christian commemoration of the occasion when Jesus took three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on a mountain, where Moses and Elijah appeared and Jesus was transfigured, his face and clothes becoming dazzlingly bright. In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself, the fully human and fully divine man, as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.

The Apostles' experience at the Transfiguration reminds us that no matter how powerful a spiritual experience is, the time comes when we have to come down off the mountain and re-join our everyday life. But when we do so, we need to do it as a changed person.

INTRODUCTION TO LENT

Brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognise that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

We invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

From the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday



COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please pray this week for: Linda, Kay, Jean, Wayne, all those celebrating their birthday this week and everyone living on Haddington Road

This week is an important week in the life of the Church. On Sunday we celebrated the Transfiguration and on Wednesday we have Ash Wednesday – the start of Lent.

Lent is a time to reflect on life and this year the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have prepared a booklet for Lent which looks at God's Story, our story related to God and how we can best be His storytellers. It is certainly true that we all have a great deal to think about this year and it seems incredible that it is nearly a whole year that we have been locked away and unable to be together as we all would like.

If you would like to spend some time together using the booklet that you should have received by Ash Wednesday, please consider joining our Lent course.

This is being led weekly on Wednesday evenings by Fr Christopher, Alice and Frankie. Each meeting will be at 6.30pm on Zoom and last for one hour. If you are unable to join us via Zoom, we will have hard copies of the teachings which can be posted out to you. We hope it will give us all an opportunity to deepen our thinking and help us to learn a bit more about prayer and God.

If you haven't received the booklet please get in touch with Father Christopher and we will send one out to you.

In order to join in the Zoom sessions please register your name and email address with Frankie on frankiet21552@gmail.com or if you would like to receive the paper teachings by post please phone Reverend Margaret on **0208 466 9384 and register with her.**



Mum: "Eat your veg."



Boy: "I can't I gave them up for Lent."

