

13 MARCH 2022

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 2



JESUS TRANSFORMED

(LUKE 9:28-36)

Interior of the Transfiguration Church on Mount Tabor in Israel

The episode in today's gospel, which we usually call the Transfiguration of Jesus, marks, in dramatic form, the turning point in Jesus's ministry.

Up to this point, he has been preaching and healing in Galilee: now he begins his journey towards Jerusalem and his destiny. The vision of Jesus in glory, which is granted to his closest male disciples – Peter, James and John – gives them, and ourselves, a glimpse of Jesus' deepest being. We recognise the similarities between this incident and that of Jesus' baptism: the cloud represents the divine presence and the voice of God, which declares Jesus as God's Son, the Chosen One. Just as Jesus' baptism stands at the beginning of his ministry in Galilee, so the vision of Jesus in glory marks the start of his journey towards Jerusalem, his ministry in Judea and the holy city, which leads to his Passion and death on Calvary.

Luke makes connections with the Jewish traditions found in the Hebrew Scriptures. The two figures who appear in glory, in conversation with Jesus, are Moses and Elijah. Moses received the Law from God on Mount Sinai and facilitated the Covenant between the Lord and the people of Israel. Elijah represents the prophetic movement within the story of Israel, which challenges the legal system and reminds the clergy and laity of the deeper meaning of the Law: that its purpose is to bring the person and nation into an intimate, personal relationship with, and commitment to, the Lord.

It is this vision, in both senses, which is given to us as we continue our Lenten journey towards Easter. ■

REFLECT

Once in a while, we may have a sense of how life can really be, of the person we would like to be ideally. The story in today's gospel is something like that: Peter wants to prolong the experience of seeing Jesus in glory, so he proposes constructing shelters for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Luke observes, perhaps wryly, and maybe affectionately, that "He did not know what he was saying."

Peter is the impulsive character, always speaking before thinking. But perhaps he is more honest than many others: he is not calculating and always getting into trouble. When we read or listen to the gospels, we are invited to ask ourselves, with whom do I identify? With what character am I most in sympathy? There is no right or wrong answer; we are being invited to enter into the Gospel story and make it part of ourselves.

Moses and Elijah are talking with Jesus about "his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem". Jesus is about to embark on the journey which will lead him to his destiny. None of us know where life will lead us, or what life has in store for us. Our observance of Lent, however we decide to keep it, is intended to help us reflect more deeply on our relationship with the Lord. Peter wanted to take a shortcut; he was quickly disabused of this notion. ■

DO

Make the sign of the cross: reflect on how this represents Jesus' passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem.



LEARN

The Transfiguration of Jesus is the mirror image of the story of his baptism.

Both reveal to the readers of the gospel Jesus' true identity as the Son of God.

The baptism stands at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee:

The Transfiguration heralds the start of Jesus' journey to Judea and Jerusalem.

SAY

This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him

(Luke 9:37)

SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)

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13th – 20th Mar 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 12th	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael Waters, his brother John, their parents Mick & Annie & John & Kate Howley Paddy Kneafsey, Sweetwell
Sunday 13th	12 noon	Swinford: Paddy Doyle, Tullinacurra, his daughter-in-law Veronica, Owen & Delia O'Brien & dec'd family Pat & Mary Costello, their grandson Kieran & dec'd Diver & Costello Families Stephen Slattery
Monday 14th	10.00am	Swinford: Thomas & Bridget Durkan & dec'd family, Kinaffee
Tuesday 15th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 16th	10.00am	Swinford: Elizabeth & Patrick Mc Guinness & their son John, Culmore
	6.30pm	Swinford: Delia Gallagher, Cullane Margaret McGrath, London/Newpark

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Thursday 17th	12 noon	Swinford: Michael & Freda Loftus, Ballydrum Dec'd of the Maughan family, Kiltimagh Road
Friday 18th	10.00am	Swinford: Sonny & Delia Oliver, Esker
Saturday 19th	10.00am	Swinford: Dr Rosemary McHugh, Chicago/Greenwood USA
	12 noon	Swinford: Canon Michael Joyce, (1 st anniv)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 19th	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael & Anne O'Donnell & dec'd family, Logcurragh Colm Lambe & his son Colm
Sunday 20th	12 noon	Swinford: Eddie Ruane, Kilkelly Road Eddie Molloy & his son Michael, Dromada Joyce

Sunday 13th	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention
Thursday 17th	9.00am	Meelick: Pete Durkan, Tower View & his parents Fena & Séamus Jack & Nora Geraghty, their son Tommy & dec'd Durkan & Geraghty Families, Ardhoome
Sunday 20th	9.00am	Meelick: John & Mary Feeney, their sons John, Gerard & Joe, Ballyglass & dec'd Feeney & Conlon families, Tom & Úna Egan, Main Street & dec'd family

Sunday 13th	10.30am	Midfield: Bernie & Ann Devine, Tullinahoo Dec'd Prendergast family, Woods, The McNicholas family, Cashelsheenaughane, The McLoughlin family, Kinaffee, Ellie & Walter Bradish
Thursday 17th	10.30am	Midfield: Winnie & Martin Gorman & dec'd family, Woods Ellen & Tone Kelly, their sons Andy & Tony & dec'd Kelly & Moran families Ann, John, Helen (Nellie) Jennings & dec'd family, Tavnaglass
Sunday 20th	10.30am	Midfield: Margaret & John O'Brien, Ballymote & dec'd family Jack & Mary Devine, their sons Michael & John & dec'd family, Tullinahoo

Please pray for Tommy Kearney, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co Galway (father of Damien Kearney, Logcurragh & father-in-law of Karena Reddington-Kearney). May he rest in the peace of Christ.

Lá Fhéile Pádraig: Thursday next, March 17th, we celebrate the Solemnity of St Patrick, our National Patron. The Vigil Mass for the solemnity will be celebrated in Swinford Church on Wednesday, March 16th at 6.30 p.m. On St Patrick's Day, Mass will be celebrated in Meelick Church at 9.00 a.m., in Midfield Church at 10.30 a.m. and in Swinford Church at 12 noon. Parts of the 12 noon Mass will be as gaeilge. St Patrick's Day is an opportunity for us to give thanks for the faith that has been handed on to us over the centuries since Patrick first preached the Good News of Jesus Christ in our land and to reflect on our mission to be individuals and a community of living faith in our day.

Holy Hour for Peace: At a meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council this week there was a discussion on our response as a parish community to the unfolding crisis in Ukraine. One suggestion was that we would, as a community, pray for peace, especially for the people of Ukraine at this time. On Sunday, March 20th between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. there will be a guided Holy Hour in Swinford Church to pray for this intention. All are welcome to come to the church or join on-line for all or part of this time of prayer, asking God to bless all in our world, especially the people of Ukraine, with his gift of peace.

Special Collection for Ukraine: Another suggestion from the Parish Pastoral Council was to hold a collection in our community, the proceeds of which would be sent to help the people of Ukraine. The Irish Bishops' Conference at their meeting this past week have also asked parishes to consider holding a collection to send material help to the people of Ukraine and refugees from Ukraine who have to flee from their homes to other countries in Europe. The collection will be co-ordinated by Trócaire and sent directly to the Catholic charities Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Poland. Many people have already made contributions to charities for Ukraine but if you would like to be part of this special collection, please place your contribution in an envelope marked 'Ukraine' and place it in the boxes that will be available in all our churches on March 26th and 27th.

A Prayer for the people of Ukraine (Which you might like to pray at home):

Loving God,
we pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world; that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world. Amen.

Preparing for Synod 2023: Pope Francis has invited us all to reflect on what it means to be a member of the Church today. He sees us as a pilgrim people making our way through the world, following the person of Jesus Christ. We are the Pilgrim People of God or a synodal people, that is on a journey together. The Pope is asking us to reflect on what that experience is like: how are we finding the journey? Do we find support as we go? Where is that support found and how could it be improved? Are there people being left behind and how might we reach out to them? You might think about these questions during the week, complete the questionnaire available in the church and return it at Mass next weekend. You will also find the form and more information on the diocesan website: <https://achonrydiocese.org/>

Covid restrictions: Most restrictions to curb the spread of the Covid virus have been eased in recent weeks.. It is no longer mandatory to wear face coverings in most settings but Bishop Paul Dempsey has suggested that we continue to wear them in church for the moment to protect the vulnerable in our congregations. Priests and Ministers of the Eucharist will continue to wear face coverings for the distribution of Holy Communion. Also, all seats in our churches are now open for those coming to Mass but please use all of the seats in the church to ensure space to keep safe those who fell vulnerable and are anxious about being in large gatherings. Your continuing co-operation in these matters will be very much appreciated.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, "Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants" he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

"I am the Lord" he said to him "who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land." "My Lord, the Lord" Abram replied "how am I to know that I shall inherit it?" He said to him, "Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon." He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

"To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 26

Response:

The Lord is my light and my help.

- The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
- O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
"Seek his face." (R.)
- It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. (R.)
- I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

SECOND READING

Phil 3:17-4:1

(For shorter form, read between > <)

>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.<

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. >For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The word of the Lord. <

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!"
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

GOSPEL

Lk 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him". And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next two lines)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;**

**he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse us of our faults
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased;
listen to him.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of
heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,
with a blessing that endures for ever,
and keep them faithful
to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son,
so that they may always desire and at last
attain
that glory whose beauty he showed in his
own Body,
to the amazement of his Apostles.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

.....
Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at
our security and, as a consequence, benefits
someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style
of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his
brother in need and took care of him.

Pope Francis