



2nd Sunday Lent, Yr B

Lectio Divina

Lectio: This Sunday's reading is taken from the gospel of Mark but because Mark's gospel is short and concise, the remaining Sundays of Lent will be taken from the gospel of John¹. The three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, recount the Transfiguration event just as they record Jesus' baptism. This is evidence that these events truly happened and were especially important in the faith of the early Church and the apostles.

The context of Mark's recounting of the Transfiguration event is that Jesus has been revealing who he is by the authority of his teaching along with his refutation of challenges and by the miracles and exorcisms he had performed. It has led Peter to profess that Jesus was the Messiah² (Mk 8:29). But his disciples are still to understand the way of the Cross. And when Jesus predicts his rejection and death, Peter gets it wrong (Mk 8:31-33). Then Jesus puts the challenge of the Cross before his disciples: *"If you want to follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me."* (Mk 8:43b). Belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of Man³ is integral to understanding and following the way of the Cross. Jesus continues on his way to the Cross with more teachings and miracles. These key apostles, Peter, James and John would keep this Transfiguration event as their proof of Jesus shares in the divinity of God the Father (the beloved) and that Jesus is the Chosen one, the Saviour announced by the Law and the Prophets (represented in Moses and Elijah). The abrupt end of Mark's gospel, Mk 16:8, has the news of the resurrection of Jesus not being shared because of fear⁴. It would only be with the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that the apostles would understand the Cross and proclaim the Risen Lord⁵ (Acts 2:4a). Do we have faith in Jesus as the Messiah, God made Man?

Read: Mark 9: 2 - 10

Meditatio: Do I find high places draw me closer to God? Have I a special place where I feel close to God e.g. a mountain or beach, my home (backyard or garden), or a church or religious shrine etc.? Have I had an experience of the glory of God? Is Jesus my 'Rabbi' i.e. my Lord and Teacher? Do I talk freely with Jesus? Do I look to the Bible for a basis of my faith i.e. to the Law and the prophets presented there? Have I tried to repeat or hold onto good experiences? Do I have trouble telling others about my relationship to Jesus? Do I know the incredible gift of having Jesus so close to me through faith? In what ways does God the Father speak to me, e.g. through the glory of creation? Do I listen to Jesus i.e. hear and act upon his words? Do I understand the way of the Cross? How important is 'rising from the dead' for me? Do I trust in Jesus as my Saviour?

Oratio: Pray for an understanding as God made man, our Saviour. Pray that God's presence in special places may be truly appreciated. Pray that the Transfiguration may inspire and deepen our faith. Pray that we will know the closeness of Jesus to us. Pray that through the Lord's forgiveness we will never be fearful of God's presence in our lives. Pray that we will listen to and follow Jesus.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Make time for reflection and openness to God's presence.

✍ Fr Joe

Mark 9: 2 - 10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Rabbi’, he said ‘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 to say; they were so frightened.

And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him’.

Then, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

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

They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

Notes:

1 If there are catechumens preparing for baptism at Easter or if the priest celebrant chooses, the readings for Year A can be used for the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. The year A readings are catechetically appropriate for preparation of catechumens and the RCIA.

2 Messiah is a Hebrew word which is translated as Christ in Greek. In both languages it means the long awaited Saviour, the anointed or consecrated one. Consider footnote on Mk 8:27 of Christian Community Bible, pastoral edn 1988.

3 “Why does Jesus call himself the Son of Man? For two reasons: First, because one page in the Bible speaks of the Son of Man who gloriously comes from God to judge all people and to rule all the nations (Daniel 7:13). And second, because Jesus is the perfect Man who bears the destiny of humanity.” Consider footnote on Mk 8:27 of Christian Community Bible, pastoral edn 1988.

4 The verses 16:9-20 are an ending probably added later by disciples of Mark

5 To tell of the Transfiguration, without a clear understanding of the way of the Cross and the Resurrection, could lead people to misunderstand about Jesus and his role as Saviour through his self-giving on the Cross and Resurrection.