

Second Sunday of Lent

25th February 2024



This is my Son, the Beloved.

Mark 9



This week's Gospel tells of the Transfiguration, when Jesus is revealed to some of his disciples as the Son of God whilst atop a mountain with the great prophets Moses and Elijah at his side.

I assume that in this encounter, these disciples had a life-changing experience. They must have looked at Jesus with very different eyes. After all, God had told them that Jesus was his Son. It must have taken a while to absorb this experience. At times, did they question their sanity? Did they truly hear the words that God had spoken to them? It must have been a blessing for them that they could process this experience with one another and with Jesus.

I wonder how you or I would react if we had an experience like this? Would we have the faith to believe that God was right there with us or would we be sceptical and question our experience? Perhaps we might even think we were hallucinating. Yet, I would guess that most, if not all of us, would love to have such a close encounter with God or Jesus.

Most likely today we will not have a vision or hear a voice from heaven speaking to us. Yet, in many ways God is saying to each one of us: "You are my beloved child." God loves us as deeply as God loves Jesus!

In these difficult times, try and take a moment, be still and allow God's word and love to fill your mind and heart. Hear God speaking to you: "You are my beloved child. Allow my presence and my love to fill you and surround you. I am always with you! Let me in! Trust me!"

This week let us pray for:

- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficulties;
- ◆ all those who are isolating or feeling isolated;
- ◆ all the Lenten intentions and promises throughout our community;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



Friday 1st March is the World Day of Prayer, the Church asks us to offer our thanks and prayers for the Christian community around the world, for equality and for service.

*Blessed Lord,
hear the prayers offered to You from across the world
for an end to all division,
and a human society
built on equality, love and peace. Amen*

God of goodness and mercy,

Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from You.
Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love.

Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to commit myself to grow closer to You each day.

Amen.

Friday 1st March—Feast of St David

Almighty God, we remember Saint David, your servant.

We give thanks for his passion for the Gospel
which helped to spread Christianity;

We give thanks for his purity and simplicity of life
which enabled his pursuit of Christian perfection;

We give thanks for his gentleness, but clear spiritual leadership.

Grant that we may learn from him

and respond to the words that are thought to be his last:

'Be steadfast, and do the little things'; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**"Lent comes
providentially to
awaken us, to
shake us from our
lethargy."**

Pope Francis