



NEWSLETTER

5TH MARCH. 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Saturday 4th, 6pm. Michael Flood.

Sunday 5th, 11.30am. Richie & Niall O'Keefe.

Saturday 11th, 6pm. Robert & Noel Kellaghan.

Sunday 12th, 11.30am. Paddy, Peg, Thomas Beatty & members of the Pakenham family. Sally & Tommy O'Hara.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 12th, 10am. Brendan Sheils.

Weekday Masses; Tuesday 11am Wed, Thursday and Friday at 9am in Raharney.

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:

*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*

Take one Hour with the Lord

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €530
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €435

RIP: Nancy McKeogh, Warrenstown. Funeral Tuesday at 11am.

Stations of the Cross: prayer at the stations on each Thursday of Lent in Raharney at 7pm.

Cemetery Sunday: takes place on June 18th.

Anam Cara Midlands, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 8th March at 7:15pm in the Mullingar Park Hotel. This event is *free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died*, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378

Special Collection for those affected by earthquake in Turkey and Syria: The Bishops are taking up a special collection in all Dioceses in response to the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Bishop Tom has suggested that a special collection should be taken up at all Masses on first weekend of March - 4th/5th March. Proceeds can be sent to the Diocesan Office, which will then be forwarded to Trocaire who will work with Caritas in bringing relief to those who are in need.

Listening to Jesus

High on the mountain, the three disciples witness a dazzling sight as Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, his face as bright as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light. In the middle of this vision, they hear God's voice telling them to listen to "my beloved Son on whom my favour rests."

The opening prayer focuses our attention on this part of the story: "God our Father, help us to hear your Son." The verse before the Gospel does the same: "From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son; hear him."

Lent is a time to listen to Jesus, "who calls us to repentance and a change of heart." It is a time to reflect on God's Word about loving our enemies and being peacemakers, about proclaiming liberty to captives and letting the oppressed go free, about being the salt of the earth and the light of the world, about being perfect just as our heavenly Father is perfect.

It is a time to be quiet and listen to the God "who has saved us and has called us to a holy life." It is a time to become a "great nation" through whom "all the communities of the earth shall find blessing."

Jesus perfected revelation by fulfilling it through his whole work of making himself present and manifesting himself: through his words and deeds, his signs and wonders, but especially through his death and glorious resurrection from the dead and final sending of the Spirit of truth.

Moreover, he confirmed with divine testimony what revelation proclaimed: that God is with us to free us from the darkness of sin and death, and to raise us up to life eternal.

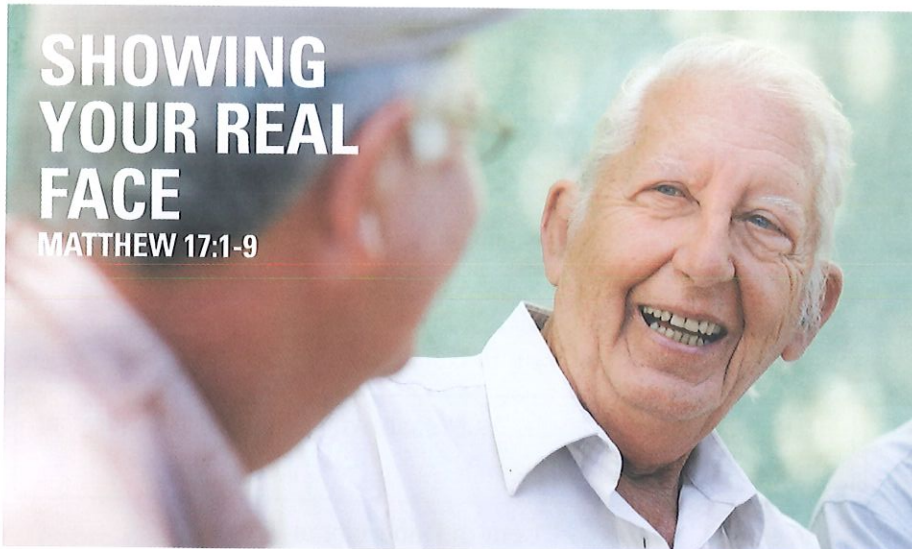
Vatican II, [*Constitution on Divine Revelation*](#)

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A • 5 March 2023 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 2



SHOWING YOUR REAL FACE

MATTHEW 17:1-9

I lived in a Redemptorist community many years ago with an old confrere I will call Jack. Jack was a very holy man, but he always looked dour and never smiled. He had a long, sombre face, and he suffered from scruples. He was constantly worrying about his sins and anxious to go to confession.

Then one day, Jack had a visit from a childhood friend, who reminded Jack of a funny incident that had happened in their school days. Suddenly Jack's face lit up, and he began to shake with laughter, his eyes sparkling, his facial features more alive than I had ever seen them before. It was like looking at a different man, like I had seen his real face for the first time.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shows his real face. He takes his three closest friends up a hill, and something extraordinary happens. Jesus is transfigured. He changes. He is revealed in his heavenly glory as he really is - the beloved Son of the Father.

That's the literal meaning of 'transfiguration' - to change one's face, to show one's true face. And that's what happens on the mountaintop. The disciples see Jesus' real face; his transfigured, glorified face, and they are awestruck. Peter gets so carried away that he wants to erect three tents, to freeze the moment forever.

The reason the transfiguration takes place at this time in Matthew's Gospel is to give the disciples a boost. Jesus knows there will be tough times ahead. He knows what will happen to him in Jerusalem and that life will get difficult for his followers. The transfiguration is a little glimpse of heaven. It shows them who Jesus really is, and gives them a foretaste of what awaits them if they remain faithful to their Master. ■

DO

On the mountaintop, the three disciples saw Jesus in his radiant glory. Try to see the God-given beauty in all you meet.

PRAY

Pray that you will always see the good in others.

SAY

"Lord, keep me faithful to you at all times. Never let me lose sight of you. Amen."

LEARN

Peter, James, and John were so transfixed by their mountaintop experience they wanted it to last forever. It couldn't, not this side of the grave. They had to come back down to earth once more. The lesson is to always live in the moment, to live every moment fully. Attune yourself to the manifest signs of God's presence all around. Live each moment in a way that points to your heavenly destiny.



REFLECT

The transfiguration story offers (at least) three lessons.

First, it holds out a promise for people of faith. It is not easy to be a Christian today or to remain faithful when so many others have walked away. The transfiguration offers us a glimpse of our destiny, our heavenly glory, as followers of Christ.

Second, the Gospel challenges us to see people differently, to see their real face. It's so easy to judge or dismiss people.

We can let an unpleasant encounter with someone colour how we see them. Or we meet someone going through a difficult time and judge them based on what they are like now rather than who they really are. The challenge is to see their real face, their best side, to see their God-created beauty, no matter how difficult.

The Gospel also challenges us to see ourselves differently, to see our real face. Many people find it hard to see themselves the way God sees them. We can focus on the negative - our flaws, our

failures - and think we don't measure up, and our self-esteem suffers. When we look in the mirror, we see only our faults.

But our faith tells us that God has created us in God's image, that God has counted every hair on our head, and God doesn't create failures. We must see ourselves as God made us, our real face.

What a different world we would have, and what different people we would be if we could see ourselves and others the way God sees us - our true face. ■