



**St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



**Second Sunday of LENT
March 5, 2023**

**“At His Transfiguration
Christ showed His disciples,
the splendour of His beauty,
to which He will shape and colour
those who are His:
‘He will reform our lowliness
configured to the body of His glory.’”**

**St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274)
*Doctor of the Church***

READINGS

1st Reading Gn 12:1-4a

2nd Reading 2 Tm 1:8b-10

Gospel Mt 17:1-9

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Introduction: **Introduction:** The common theme of today's readings is metamorphosis or transformation. The readings invite us to work, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, to transform and renew our lives during Lent, that we may radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord which we have received, to all around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

Scripture lessons: The first reading describes the transformation of a pagan patriarch into a believer in the one God. His name will be transformed from Abram to Abraham and his small family into a great nation. All Abram has to do is to obey the Lord God's command, and he does so. The second reading, taken from St. Paul's second letter to Timothy, explains the type of Lenten transformation expected of us. We are transformed when we recognize the hand of a loving, providing, and disciplining God behind all our hardships, pain, and suffering and try our best to grow in holiness by cooperating with the grace of God given to us through Jesus and his Gospel.

In the Transfiguration story in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus' Transfiguration was to allow Jesus to consult his Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for His Son's suffering, death and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make his chosen disciples aware of Jesus' Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened **in their time of trial**. On the mountain, Jesus is identified by the Heavenly Voice as the Son of God. Thus, the Transfiguration narrative is a Christophany, that is, a manifestation or revelation of who Jesus really is. Describing Jesus' Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting Faith in Him, as the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 33), for today encourages us to do.

LENT-Pope Benedict XVI-2013

"Believing in charity calls forth charity"

"We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us" (1 Jn 4:16)

(.....Continue)

2. Charity as life in faith

The entire Christian life is a response to God's love. The first response is precisely faith as the acceptance, filled with wonder and gratitude, of the unprecedented divine initiative that precedes us and summons us. And the "yes" of faith marks the beginning of a radiant story of friendship with the Lord, which fills and gives full meaning to our whole life. But it is not enough for God that we simply accept his gratuitous love. Not only does he love us, but he wants to draw us to himself, to transform us in such a profound way as to bring

us to say with Saint Paul: “it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (cf. *Gal* 2:20).

When we make room for the love of God, then we become like him, sharing in his own charity. If we open ourselves to his love, we allow him to live in us and to bring us to love with him, in him and like him; only then does our faith become truly “active through love” (*Gal* 5:6); only then does he abide in us (cf. *1 Jn* 4:12).

Faith is knowing the truth and adhering to it (cf. *1 Tim* 2:4); charity is “walking” in the truth (cf. *Eph* 4:15). Through faith we enter into friendship with the Lord, through charity this friendship is lived and cultivated (cf. *Jn* 15:14ff). Faith causes us to embrace the commandment of our Lord and Master; charity gives us the happiness of putting it into practice (cf. *Jn* 13:13-17). In faith we are begotten as children of God (cf. *Jn* 1:12ff); charity causes us to persevere concretely in our divine sonship, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Gal* 5:22). Faith enables us to recognize the gifts that the good and generous God has entrusted to us; charity makes them fruitful (cf. *Mt* 25:14-30).

3. The indissoluble interrelation of faith and charity

In light of the above, it is clear that we can never separate, let alone oppose, faith and charity. These two theological virtues are intimately linked, and it is misleading to posit a contrast or “dialectic” between them. On the one hand, it would be too one-sided to place a strong emphasis on the priority and decisiveness of faith and to undervalue and almost despise concrete works of charity, reducing them to a vague humanitarianism. On the other hand, though, it is equally unhelpful to overstate the primacy of charity and the activity it generates, as if works could take the place of faith. For a healthy spiritual life, it is necessary to avoid both fideism and moral activism.

(will Continue)

FEB 25/26 COLLECTIONS

Gift Aid collection	122
Loose cash	197.21
Total	319.21

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Offered by	Intentions
05/03/23		For the Parishioners
06/03/23		Dan Bradley
07/03/23		Yvonne Aherne
08/03/23		Daniele Aherne
09/03/23		Maureen Aherne
10/03/23		Nell Mahon
11/03/23		Kathleen Clifford RIP

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

Please Pray for our Sick

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

ANNIVERSARIES (March 5-11)

Philip Raymond Powell, '91:, Tom Gibbons, '83: James Hannigan (Bishop of Wrexham), '91: Jessie Brown, '75: Catherine Fleming, Benjamin Hall, '12., Rosalina Williams, 2000: Arnold Ravenscroft '13, Thomas Kelly, '73: Patricia Baines, Bridget & Ann Cushnahan, Kathleen Clifford, Charles Albert Lewis, '91: Michael McArdle, 92, Elizabeth Douglas, '04.

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Registered Charity No. 70042

Wish you a fruitful season of LENT!!