

## Lent Week 2 – 2020 Year A

Genesis 12:1-4; Ps 32:4-5; Timothy 1:8-10; Matt 17:1-9

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First of all I would like to encourage you all as we continue through Lent. If you struggle a little with what you have undertaken that is good. We do not choose an easy path, but it is a good path. If Lent were easy it would not be so worthwhile. Do not be discouraged if you have already made some breaks with your Lenten undertakings, whether it is your fasting, prayer or almsgiving. It is not the end of the world. What is important is that you allow yourself to be picked up again and try. Do not be tempted by that little voice that says *'O, I have already broken my Lent promises there is no point going on.'* Rather, say *'O, I have already broken my Lent promises it must be telling me something about myself, something I need to learn, so I will carry on.'* That little voice of surrender in your ear that says *'It is a waste of time'* or *'No one will notice or care if I do or don't do this'* or *'God has more important things to deal with than my Lenten undertakings'* should not be ignored: it should be laughed at. Pray to the Holy Spirit for Fortitude, pray to our Lady for purity of intention and that little tempting voice of failure will soon vacate! Be away with you. And anyway, if you get to Easter and you have executed all your promises perfectly and you have not been tempted maybe you need a little bit more of a stretch! You need to move up a level in self-control and Love of God and Neighbour. But don't waste time, do it now! Meanwhile the chocolate, the wine, the tea and the treats are not so important as to what we have been given!

What have we been given? Please listen, because we now get to the exciting bit, which is not about what we have given up, but what we

are gaining. What we are gaining is here in today's Gospel, and it is here at the Mass.

Let me read a line from today's Gospel to you again: *'There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as light'*. In this line we see what the disciples saw, the Divinity of Christ shining through, a glimpse of God. This is what the word 'Transfigured' means: it is a change in form or appearance. The Transfiguration is a change in appearance from the man who the disciples see as Jesus to the one God sees as 'Son'. For a moment on the mountain, the disciples see Jesus completely as he is: Man and God. In most of his life in this world Jesus appears to be just a man. Who he really is becomes more apparent to those who love him as he teaches, as he heals and as he is simply present in their lives. But as God he is almost, as it were, in disguise. This is not because he is hiding but because no one could bear it if they saw him completely as he is. That single glimpse of Jesus as God the Father sees him, drops Peter, James and John to their knees in fear.

They see him like this only for a moment, but it is emblazoned on their hearts and minds so that they remember. When Easter comes and Jesus rises from the dead and ascends into heaven they will remember that it is the same Jesus who walked with them as their friend and teacher. He always was God.

He always was God's Son and he always is God's Son. And just as the Son of God was humble and became man, to this day he still comes to us in humble appearance at Holy Communion. In humbler

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appearance. To some it looks just like bread and wine, - easy to walk by and ignore - but to those who love him we know that it really is Jesus and he speaks to us and transforms us. We know this because he speaks with the Authority of God the Father who said '*This is my Son, the Beloved, he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.*' And with that authority Jesus said at the Last Supper; '*Take this, all of you and eat of it, for this is my Body which will be given up for you.*'

This is what you have been promised: The Body of Christ, the heart of Heaven, Life in God. (Ashby - This is what you are being prepared for by your 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion classes; to know Him and to receive Him and to Love Him.) And this is what all of you have gathered here for. And it is not a vision. Truly He is the God who loves us.