

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken:

Seek his face.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;

hide not your face from me.

COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us

to listen to your beloved Son,

be pleased, we pray,

to nourish us inwardly by your word,

that, with spiritual sight made pure,

we may rejoice to behold your glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of

the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 22:1-2.9-13.15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham,

Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied.

'Take your son,' God said 'your only child

Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of

Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt

offering, on a mountain I will point out to

you.'

When they arrived at the place God had

pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar

there, and arranged the wood. Abraham

stretched out his hand and seized the knife

to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from

heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am

here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand

against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm

him, for now I know you fear God. You

have not refused me your son, your only

son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram

caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took

the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in

place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a

second time from heaven. 'I swear by my

own self - it is the Lord who speaks -

because you have done this, because you

have not refused me your son, your only

son, I will shower blessings on you, I will

make your descendants as many as the stars

of heaven and the grains of sand on the

seashore. Your descendants shall gain

possession of the gates of their enemies. All

the nations of the earth shall bless

themselves by your descendants, as a reward

for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 115

Response:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord

in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said,

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful.

(R.)

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I,
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,

in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

SECOND READING 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against

us? Since God did not spare his own Son,

but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be

certain, after such a gift, that he will not

refuse anything he can give. Could anyone

accuse those that God has chosen? When

God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could

Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us -

he rose from the dead, and there at God's

right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

From the bright cloud the Father's voice

was heard:

'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to

him!'

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

suddenly, 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,

cleanse us of our faults

and sanctify your faithful in body and mind

for the celebration of the paschal festivities.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am

well pleased; listen to him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,

we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,

for allowing us while still on earth

to be partakers even now of the things of

heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



What does the term "transfiguration" mean to you? What do you think the apostles saw when they looked at Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus allowed the apostles to see him in a small part of his divine glory?

Do you think that seeing the transfiguration of Jesus had a lasting effect on Peter, James, and John? Why or why not? Would it have a lasting effect on you?

The apostles kept the transfiguration experience to themselves and pondered its meaning. Do you ponder the meaning of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension into glory?

Is it healthy to question your beliefs, challenge your spirituality, and examine your experiences to keep your faith life alive and growing? Do you think Jesus asked himself the same kind of questions as he grew in understanding of his mission?

How do you bring growth to your faith life?

GOSPEL ACTION

Meditate on the transfiguration. Make a list of the ways your life has been transformed by the presence of Jesus. Ask your family what are the most important things about their relationship with Jesus.

Readings – 3rd Sunday in Lent Year B

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Climate Sunday – Homily/Reflection

Today is Climate Sunday. We hear in the Gospel today how Jesus went up the mountain and was transfigured. It was only at this point that the disciples actually recognised who he really was; truly human and truly God. Once we recognise who Jesus really is and what we are called to be and do; we will never be the same again. Let us be transformed so that together we can make our world a better place.

In our parish we are marking Climate Sunday today in response to the Pope's appeal, to the whole of humanity, in 'Laudato Si', for us to 'hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. This year the world community has an important opportunity to work together to tackle the worst effects of climate change and to provide a future for all, through agreements made at the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, COP26 and the G7. As a parish we want to take this opportunity to act.

All around us we see the signs of spring, the days drawing out, lighter evenings to come, bulbs sprouting and flowering, new growth and the birds building nests. There is so much of God's creation to be thankful for. We are grateful for our homes and our families and even if we can't see them as we would wish to, we can contact them by phone and over the internet. There are pressures too and people suffering, through the loss of loved ones, loss of jobs, incomes and disrupted education. New ways of working and education have been found and the ingenuity of people is something that praises God. He created this planet with everything here to sustain life and give us life in its fullest. We can appreciate this as we walk along the prom, view the sea and the river and visit parks and woodlands nearby; we walk, as the psalmist says, in the presence of the Lord.

And yet all is not well on Earth. The pandemic has starkly shown us how parts of our community have been affected more than others; how parts of other countries have suffered and continue to suffer more than others; how the vaccine, whilst a hopeful prospect could become yet another source of division. Pope Francis reminds us that everyone of us is precious in God's sight. We all have dignity from the weakest and poorest in society to the richest. Yet changes brought about by human induced climate change are affecting the poor, who have no safety nets, more than the richer countries.

Although climate change affects us all, it hits the poorest hardest, multiplying hunger, migration and conflict. We have seen how the effects of flooding in our country, our extreme weather, has pushed people into despair and ruin. In other countries with no financial or social safety net, a flood that destroys homes leaves people destitute. The countries that have done the least to cause climate change are those most vulnerable to climate induced disasters.

We can appreciate the beauty of the coast and the force of the wind and waves and the high tides in our own town. The sea defences have been improved to protect us now but they may not in the future. Communities in the Pacific Islands face the real prospect of

losing their whole island with sea level rises. Recently we saw the Cobra film set in New Brighton depicting a tsunami. Wrecked vehicles, piles of sand along the prom. What if that was real life for us?

Many of us will have watched David Attenborough's 'Perfect Planet' and felt in despair yet Pope Francis tells us in *Laudato Si'* 'That all is not lost' but we do need to act.

What can we do? Firstly, we can acknowledge that we are part of the problem, both the way we live now and how we have lived over the last 70 years. We have consumed as many of the World's finite resources in this time as were consumed in the whole of the previous human habitation of the earth. In the developed countries we are consuming more than our fair share of the earth's resources. We cannot continue like this. We must acknowledge that we are doing harm.

Secondly, we can alter our lifestyles – with just a few tweaks - to live more simply and more sustainably. Many of us have already started to make resolutions for this year and have put them on cards to make our tree at the back of church. There are lots of good ideas: eat less meat, turn down our heating by 1 degree, stop using clingfilm, have a car-free day, make our homes more energy efficient, switch to a renewable energy supply, buy seasonal food, buy only what we need, reduce our food waste, refuse packaging and so on.

You will have seen in the newsletter that Fr Phil, Jill and Anne are taking up the challenge to Walk for Water, they will be walking 10,000 steps each day during Lent. You can help in two ways: by donating to CAFOD on the Justgiving page or by walking too. If you can't manage 10,000 steps, try walking 1,000 steps, or like Captain Sir Tom, 100. You can add your steps to the parish total. The details of how to do this are in the newsletter.

Thirdly, we can live in solidarity with the poor, as Pope Francis urges us to do. This year we have two important international meetings when our UK government can influence world affairs, particularly regarding the climate and environmental emergency. These events are the G7 and COP26. The G7 will take place in Cornwall and COP 26 in Glasgow. Please find out what you can about these meetings. There's information on the CAFOD website, on our parish website and Our Common Home Facebook page, including videos. Or you could try reading *Laudato Si'* or the shorter booklet *Our Common Home* (both available on our fairtrade stall)

If you are able, we would encourage you to write to our MP Dame Angela Eagle, to let her know that we need the UK government to act fairly for the whole of creation, not just the UK. During this time we can also make an extra effort to find time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Living in solidarity can mean all of these. Each week at 7.30pm the parish Our Common Home group say the prayer added to this week's bidding prayers. Please pray with us as part of this worldwide prayer chain. Together we can make a big difference.

Thank you, **Fr Phil and the Our Common Home Group**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

28th February 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B

On this Climate Sunday we bring all our prayers to God our Father:

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of Creation. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for the world, Our Common Home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for all the faithful departed especially **Ellen Moore**, those who have died from Covid-19 and all those who have died recently: **"Eternal rest grant unto them..."**

We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ's message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.
Lord, in your mercy.....

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say:
"Hail Mary..."

God our loving Father,
we offer these and all our prayers
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion
28th February 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.

CAFOD Prayer for Glasgow

Creator God,
We cry out to you
The earth is damaged and in chaos
People in poverty are suffering the most
Greed and consumerism are a disease
And your Church is too often asleep

Merciful Lord,
Protect your people and restore your earth,
Embolden governments to take action,
Awaken Church leaders
Give the youth influence
And guide businesses to change

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord
May we unite and be bold
Take heart and find hope in you,
Worship you with our lifestyles
Walk in your truth
and see justice and renewal in the earth

Amen