

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for Sunday 16th March 2025

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle I

Readings for 2nd Lent Sunday: Genesis 15:5-12,17-18; Psalm 27(26); Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9: 28b-36

Psalm's Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation

Saturday 15th Mar 5.30pm 1st MASS of the 2nd SUNDAY of LENT – Cafod Lent Collection

Sunday 16th Mar 10.30am MASS of the 2nd SUNDAY of LENT - Cafod Lent Collection

Monday 17th Mar 9.15am Mass FEAST: ST. PATRICK, bishop, patron of Ireland

Tuesday 18th Mar (St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor of the church)

Wednesday 19th Mar 11.30am Mass Solemnity: St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday 20th Mar

Friday 21st Mar 1.00pm Mass (in Hospital Chapel)

Saturday 22nd Mar 10.00am Mass

10.30-11am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 22nd Mar 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday 23rd Mar 10.30am Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Lent

Readings for 3rd Lent Sunday: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15; Psalm 103(102) 1Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12; Luke 13:1-9

CAFOD LENT FAST APPEAL

Today Sun 16th March. Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD in this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities suffering the impacts of poverty & climate change, insecurity & even war to find solutions and hope- just like Lokho & her community in the arid Marsabit region of Northern Kenya. A shade net, sturdy enough to shield delicate plants from the blistering sun, allows every precious drop of rain to reach the soil. This innovative "anti-greenhouse net" became their safety net, helping their community thrive. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, our



Lokho & Wakera in arid NE Kenya

local partner, Wakera, was able to show Lokho & her neighbours how to use this tool, keeping their crops and their dreams alive. With your support, more families can overcome challenges, build resilience, and plant. If you can give with Gift Aid use the CAFOD envelope in church You may also donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. Also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. Go to <https://youtu.be/BRhixfRAQEs> for more info.

STATIONS of the CROSS & LENT SOUP LUNCH

Lent Fridays 14th, 21st, 28th in March & 4th, 11th in April: at **12 noon** in the Community Room: the PPC have organize Stations of the Cross in the Community Room followed by a Lent Soup Lunch. It's a way of joining together during Lent, to keep alive in our hearts in a simple way, the loving sacrifice our Lord's suffering & death. Come & join the Pastoral Council members. For more information, contact Steve James sjames2@btinternet.com or john_mears@outlook.com

REST IN PEACE

Next Thurs 20th March 12noon: the Funeral Mass of Lionel Moss died 24th February age 92 years in St. Edward's with burial afterwards in St. James Sutton graveyard. May he rest in peace!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Next Tues 18th March 7.00pm in the C. Room: meeting of the PPC.

DIOCESE LOURDES 2025 PILGRIMAGE

Brochures & Booking Forms for this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of July are now available to download from the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk and bookings are now open.

FOOD BANK

The Silk Life Food Bank appeals for items listed on noticeboards e.g.: UHT milk, stewed steak, beef casserole, chili con carne, instant mash - also toiletries and baby items.

THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday's Collection £188.30

S/O February £652.00

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital or East Cheshire Hospice let Fr. Peter C. know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com

DIARY OF EVENTS

Sun 30th March Start of British Summer Time (B.S.T.)

Sun 13th April Palm & Passion Sunday

Sun 20th April Easter

Sun 18th May Provisional date for 1st Holy Communion



Why the Transfiguration? Jesus wants us to see his glory

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.- Matthew 17:1-3

In her *Revelations of Divine Love*, the medieval mystic Blessed Julian of Norwich wrote:

*I saw Him and still sought Him,
For we are now so blind and so unwise that we never seek God
until He of His goodness shows Himself to us;
and when we see anything of Him by grace, then are we moved by
the same grace to try with great desire to see Him more perfectly.
And thus I saw Him and I sought Him,
and I possessed Him and I lacked Him.
And this is, and should be, our ordinary behaviour in life.*

Unlike Dame Julian and other mystics who experience the reality of God's presence in a unique way, we are often very quick to

try to note the distinctions—the boundaries—between the human and the divine. Even our ways of talking about God can make the divine realities seem far-removed from our daily lives. The Church's greatest minds and grace-filled mystics have understood that our limited human perspectives, especially our words, fail us when we are allowed even the slightest glimpse of the glory of God.

It's easy to imagine Saint Matthew struggling with the limits of language as they recalled what happened on the mountain that day as Jesus made his way to Jerusalem. Although we often think of the Transfiguration of Jesus—the wonderful way in which the divine glory of Jesus was revealed to Peter, James, and John—as having been for the benefit of the disciples, we can also understand that the Transfiguration, like his Baptism by John in the River Jordan years before, was a pivotal moment in the life of Jesus.

In his gospel, Luke places the Transfiguration during a time of prayer, immediately before Jesus begins to make his way to Jerusalem where he will take up the Cross and give up his life. Focusing on this detail, Henri Nouwen reflects:

Jesus wants us to see his glory, so that we can cling to that experience... When we are attentive to the light within us and around us, we will gradually see more and more of that light and even become a light for others. We have to trust that the transfiguration experience is closer to us than we might think. Trusting that, we may also be able to live our Gethsemane experience without losing our faith.

A cloud, a sign of God's presence, overshadowed Jesus and Moses and Elijah (representing the law of the Old Covenant and the preaching of the Prophets) to encourage Jesus to continue his journey. And so, in the Transfiguration, Jesus is empowered to continue his journey and mission, knowing that regardless of what lies ahead his Father remains with him, guiding his steps and making his mission bear fruit.

In the end, as we reflect on the mystery of the Transfiguration on this Second Sunday of Lent, we are reminded that the death of Jesus was not an accident of fate or some expression of Divine wrath, but an act of love, freely accepted and offered for the sake of those who are “least” in the Kingdom of Heaven—for you and for me.

When have you been called to make sacrifices for the sake of another person? How was this a moment of “transfiguration” for you?

When you have a special experience of the presence and power of God, do you want to “build a tent” and remain on the mountain or do you feel called to share the gift you have received with others?

How does the notion that Jesus had to come to terms with both his own vocation and the prospect of suffering and death challenge you? How does it inspire you to see God at work in the little crosses that you take up each day?

Words of Wisdom: “Suddenly from on high the voice of the Father resounds proclaiming Jesus to be his most beloved Son, saying ‘listen to him.’ This word is important! Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: ‘listen to Jesus, because he is my beloved Son.’ This week let us keep this word in our minds and in our hearts: ‘listen to Jesus!’ And the Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. ‘Listen to Jesus!’ Don’t forget.”—Pope Francis

Wednesday 12th March 2025

THE *Wednesday*
WORD



Encountering Christ

The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read

The Gospel for Sunday 16th March 2025

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him." And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

Taken from Luke 9:28-36 The Second Sunday of Lent, Year C

2

Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

The gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent is always the account of the Transfiguration, preparing the chosen three disciples and ourselves for the coming Passion of Christ. It is a scene of Christ's heavenly glory, his clothes bright as lightning, his glory extending even to the appearance of Moses and Elijah: these two Old Testament personalities are here privileged to speak to Jesus because they each had a vision of God on the holy mountain, called both Sinai and Horeb (in the Old Testament these are two names for the same mountain). The Voice from heaven at the baptism had been addressed to Jesus himself (in Mark and Luke); this time the Voice is a public declaration of Jesus' Sonship, and presents him now as the Chosen Teacher for all people. Luke foreshadows the Passion when he mentions Jerusalem – the place where Jesus is to suffer and die on the cross. The fact that the disciples are praying, and are the same three disciples as are present at the Agony in the Garden, makes a strong link with the Passion of Jesus. This gospel also highlights the importance of prayer in Luke's gospel, for Luke mentions Jesus' prayer and the significance of prayer on several occasions and in several parables (e.g. in the Unjust Judge, the Friend at Midnight, and the Pharisee & the Tax-Collector).

What do you find the best form of prayer? What commitment to prayer can you make this Lent? Jesus was transfigured on the 'Holy' Mountain. What makes a place 'holy'?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is ENCOURAGEMENT!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**The Jubilee
Year of Hope**

Share the Prayer: Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends? Also, to see a sample of your primary school's *Family Version*, visit: wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 16th March 2025**



1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

The Covenant with Abraham

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, "Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants," he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. "I am the Lord," he said to him, "who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land." "My Lord, the Lord," Abram replied, "how am I to know that I shall inherit it?" He said to him, "Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon." He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: "To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River."



There are different stories of exactly how God's pact with Abraham (or Abram) was made. There is no doubt that it was a promise of lasting protection for Abraham and his descendants. This version takes the form of an ancient sacral covenant, of a kind known from other ancient New Eastern sources. The offerings are cut in half, and the parties making the pact pass between the halves, as a symbol that they will observe the pact faithfully until the two halves come together again. Such covenants were frequent between equals, or between overlord and vassal, but no such covenant is known between a deity and a human being. It perhaps marks the inequality between God and Abraham that only the wondrous symbols of God (the furnace and firebrand) here pass between the halves of the offering: Abraham cannot impose conditions on God! Nor can Abraham do anything to earn or justify the promise God makes: he can only trust in God, for he himself remains a nomad without a settled territory to call his own. Only his descendants will inherit the land and become as the stars of heaven. The awesome mystery of the scene is increased by the deep sleep (the same sleep as fell on Adam for the creation of Eve) and by Abram's terror.

What covenant does God make with us Christians? What must we do to keep our part of the Covenant?



2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

The Earliest Gospel

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.



Last Sunday's second reading (from Paul's letter to the Romans) built on the first reading (from Deuteronomy); the Israelite profession of faith in God becomes the Christian's profession of faith in Christ as Risen Lord. So this Sunday Abram's promised ownership of the land is transfigured into the promise of citizenship in heaven to the followers of Christ. In this world we are aliens rather than citizens: neither our fundamental values nor our final aim are those of this world. We cannot rest in contentment except in the expectation of the Risen Lord coming in triumph to assume lordship of all things. This, rather than food or any material goods, must be the basis of our whole system of values. To modern conventions Paul's repeated encouragement to follow his rule of life or to imitate him may seem boastful and complacent. But Paul asks us to imitate him not for his own glory, but because he sees himself as the servant of Christ, suffering for Christ, just as Jesus suffered as the Servant of the Lord. Paul's sufferings are the badge of apostleship. In other passages, Paul shows that he is as aware as any of us of his own failings and of his inability to live up to his ideals.

Who are "models" for us? How can we follow Christ more closely?

We cannot rest in contentment except in the expectation of the Risen Lord.

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**