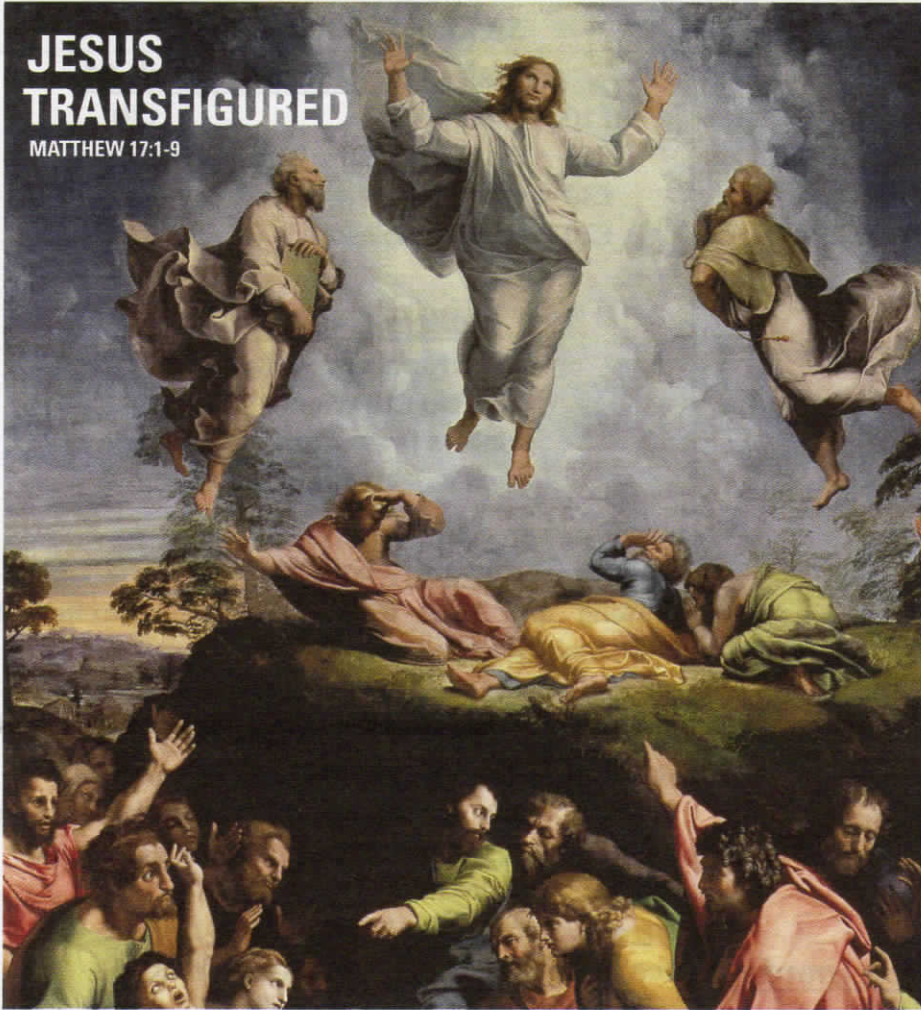


JESUS TRANSFIGURED

MATTHEW 17:1-9



Raphael (1483-1520), *Transfiguration*, Renaissance art, Cinquecento, Fresco

Mountains are important places in Matthew's Gospel. To anyone familiar with the story of the people Israel, the mention of mountain would recall Mount Sinai, the place where God met Moses and made the covenant with Israel.

It is the location of the giving and accepting of the Law. For Matthew's Jewish Christian community, the idea of the mountain as a place of revelation would be familiar.

Just before this episode, Peter has declared his belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God. This leads Jesus to explain that being the Messiah involves his suffering and death, a teaching which Peter is unwilling to accept. So immediately after this, Jesus takes Peter, James and John, his inner circle among the disciples to a place where they receive a vision of Jesus as he will be in glory. The Passion and Cross will not be the end of the story. Jesus' fidelity and commitment to his mission will lead him to Jerusalem and to death, but it is through this that he will be transfigured into the glorified life symbolized by the dazzling light coming from his face and

garments. The figures of Moses and Elijah, who represent the Law and the Prophets, tell us that Jesus' ministry is the continuation of God's plan and revelation for those who will accept it.

The Transfiguration of Jesus is a turning point in his ministry. Up to this point, he has been preaching and healing in Galilee, and has been largely accepted. Just as the Baptism stands at the beginning of the ministry in Galilee, the Transfiguration, another moment of revealing Jesus' identity as the Son of God stands at the beginning of his journey towards Jerusalem and his ministry there and in Judea, where he will be rejected. The vision is a glimpse of Jesus' future glory and should (hopefully) sustain the disciples through the events which are to follow in Jerusalem. ■

SAY

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you

(Psalm 32:22).

LEARN

A mountain is a symbolic setting for the revelation or an appearance of God.

Jesus' title Son of Man is usually connected with his Passion.

Matthew tells us later that righteous people will shine like the sun in God's Kingdom (Matt 13:43), just as Jesus does in this anticipation of his future glory.

DO

Whatever penance you have decided on for Lent, remember when you perform it that its purpose is to make you think about the person of Jesus and how he gave his life for you on the Cross.

REFLECT

Jesus should be the centre of our thoughts during Lent. Part of the purpose of fasting is to make us more spiritually aware. The less our body has to do, the more our mind can be active. Comfort eating is a way of avoiding staying with uncomfortable thoughts, of facing ourselves as we are at the present moment. Any form of addiction is at its root a way of trying to cope with our spiritual need. Filling our time with distractions, sometimes even praiseworthy activities can be a means of avoiding the deep questions which come to all of us. Lent is a time to put such distractions aside and to ask ourselves what is really important, what can give genuine meaning to our existence. Lent will then be a period when we grow spiritually, as we will be looking out from ourselves to the person of Jesus. It was through the Cross that he came to the existence which is his destiny: the Transfiguration should give us hope that our cross will not be the end of the story either. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore **All Saints Ballela**
Sunday 11.00am Sunday 9.45am

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon, Wed : 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

Mass: Tues & Thur 9.30am

Sat: 10-11am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

St Patricks Day Mass Times

Ballela – Thur 16th Vigil 7.30pm

Magheralin – Fri 17th 9.30am

Dromore – Fri 17th 11.00am

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 12: None

Sun 19: James Burns
Brendan & Patrick McAleenan

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 12: None

Sun 19: Patrick McGreevy

Offertory Promise Collection £1283.44

Readers - Dromore

Sun 19: Siobhan McArdle

Dromore, Annaclone and Ballela Lourdes

Committee Anyone wishing to travel as sick or pilgrim, contact any committee member, Pilgrim fare is £595 .If there are any nurses who are new to the Parish and would be willing to give up their time to go to work in Lourdes contact Frances Kattourah on 07894166791. Next meeting Mon 13th March at 8.30pm in Ballela School.

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

The society's Annual Irish Night will take place on Wed 15th March at 7.30pm in Balmoral Hotel Warrenpoint, comprising Dinner and Entertainment. This event is organized each year by Very Rev Dean Anthony Davies. Cost is £20, to book contact Dean Davies [Tel:41739484](tel:41739484) or Frank McCorry Tel: 3832294

Whist

Whist will be held in St. Colman's hall on Sunday 19 March. Ladies to provide pastry are: Rosaleen Mulholland & Patricia McGreevy.

Sunday 12th March 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 44

£100	Yvonne Cull	110
£50	Bill O'Loughlin	079
£30	Mary Kelly	251
£20	Hester Robinson	322

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 6 8 10 11

No £10 Winner's

Sellers Draw: Susan McCusker

Next week's Jackpot: £5000

Ballela Community Group

Knitting and craft class has been cancelled this Thursday. The two classrooms in the school are to be painted this week commencing Mon 13th March.

St Colman's Hall – Refurbishment

Hall Refurb Appeal - £2028 of £5,000 raised

Thanks for your support so far. Please keep spreading the word by asking your family and friends for their support. Send them to

www.everyclick.com/stcolmans to help us. We don't want to miss the once in a generation opportunity to refurbish our hall for ourselves and our families for years to come. Let's do this as a Parish, for our Parish. Please donate what you can, and don't forget to Gift Aid any donations. Work on lights has been completed and replacement of windows and doors is well underway. The hall will be closed next week as work will start on heating and plumbing.

Parish Records

It is important that the Parish holds details of all members of the Parish. A full Parish Census was undertaken in 2007 and most of these details have not changed. However if you meet any of the following criteria we request that you complete a Parish Census Form which is available at the back of the church and return it to the Parish Office or place it on the collection plate.

- Joined the Parish since 2007 *or*
- Changed your address or telephone number since 2007

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.