

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter week 2

JESUS TRANSFORMED



The scene of the biblical event of transfiguration of Jesus Christ fresco in the Church of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor, Galilee, Israel

The incident which we usually call the Transfiguration of Jesus occurs at the pivotal point in Mark's gospel.

It recalls Jesus' baptism, and just as the baptism stands at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, so the transfiguration occupies the same place in relation to his ministry in Judea and Jerusalem. On both occasions, he is identified as the Son of God. Mark actually says that Jesus was *transformed*. The apostle Paul quotes a hymn which says that Christ Jesus *though he was in the form of God, emptied himself ... being born in the likeness of human beings*. The point of the story is that the three privileged disciples are given a glimpse of Jesus' divine form. However, this experience is linked with the cross, a connection made by the use of the title *Son of Man* which occurs in passages to do with Jesus' passion and death, and by the mention of *rising from the dead*, the meaning of which escapes the disciples at this point.

Peter's reaction is to want to prolong the experience by constructing three temporary huts or shelters of the type used by agricultural workers at harvest time. These would be for Jesus and Moses and Elijah, who represent the tradition of Israel in the Law and the Prophets. The cloud which covers them is a symbol of the presence of God. Since harvest depended on rainfall at particular times in the Holy Land, clouds were positive signs of life and hope. The command *Listen to him* gives approval to Jesus as the representative of God: it also lends authority to his difficult teaching about discipleship which he will give during the journey. The disciples (and we ourselves) are urged to listen and obey. ■

REFLECT

Jesus has already told the disciples that anyone who would be his disciple must take up their cross and be prepared to lose their very being, their innermost self. Peter, James and John are given a glimpse of Jesus' divine self, a manifestation of who Jesus really is. That is the true goal of the journey, beyond Calvary. Somehow the cross and resurrection – the event we understand as the Paschal Mystery – are crucial to the coming of God's kingdom in its fullness. The call to *listen to him* points to the proper response to Jesus and his place in the paschal mystery.

In the narrative, the disciples are about to set out accompanying Jesus in his

journey to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week. Their experience on the mountain gives them an idea of Jesus' true identity and that the resurrection will take place. It is clear that they do not understand either of these notions fully, their reaction to each has been one of practically paralyzing awe at the first and puzzlement at the second. We are setting out on a similar journey through Lent, and the liturgy provides us with a similar glimpse, much less dramatic, in which it puts before us the message of Jesus' true identity as the Son of God and the central place of the cross, not just in God's plan as it is presented, but in our own lives as well. The purpose of Lent is to bring us closer to God and to Jesus. The instruction, *Listen to him* is addressed to us: we would do well to heed it. ■

LEARN

Mark tells us that Jesus was *transformed*, a rather stronger term than *transfigured*.

The incident reveals Jesus' divine form to the disciples.

Mountains in the bible are usually places of encounter with the divine.

Moses is the figure who represents the Law given on Mount Sinai; Elijah stands for the prophets of Israel. Together they symbolize the religious tradition of Israel.

DO

Look at the crucifix. What (or who?) is your particular cross? Make a special effort in this coming week to accept your cross as part of your following of Jesus with his.



Pope Francis venerates the crucifix as he leads the Good Friday service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican

SAY

I will walk in the presence of the Lord.

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday 25th February 2018

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

Tues & Thur - 9.30am : Mass

Wed – 7pm : Mass (During Lent)

Fri – 9.30am – Stations of the cross with Eucharist

Sat - 10-11am: Exposition of The Blessed sacrament

Sun - 7-8pm –Prayer Meeting, reflection and Eucharistic adoration will be held in Parochial house during lent. Everyone welcome.

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 25: None

Sun 4: Patrick, Mary Rose & Patrick Doyle Jnr
Willie & Mary Doyle
Mary Magee
Brendan McAleenan
Willie, Sarah & Sean Lavery

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 25: Gerard Keenan

Sun 4: John Donaldson MM
Kathleen Aherne

Recently baptised

Senan Jack Black

Offertory Promise Collection £933.40

Readers - Dromore

Sun 4: John McKeown

Women's World Day of Prayer

Will be held in Dromore Methodist Church, Maypole Hill, at **8pm on Fri 2nd March**. This is an interdenominational service and we would encourage the ladies in our parish to attend.

Do This In Memory

Will take place in both churches next Sunday

Collectors – March – All Saints

Pat Rooney & James O'Rourke

Parish Draw Winners Week 44

£100	Brenda Jones	017
£50	Sinead Lennon	286
£30	Bill Lennon	443
£20	Grania Shillington	058

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 2 15 22 24

No £10 winners

Seller: Anglers Rest

Next week's jackpot £1640

Ballela Community Group

AGM meeting will be held in Tues 27th Feb at 7pm in Ballela School. New members very welcome.

Assumption Grammar School

Annual Concert will take place on Sun 4th march at 4.30pm. This is to celebrate the school's 85th Anniversary and will be held in The Waterfront Hall. Tickets available from school reception
Tel – 02987562250

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee

Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage **17th to 22nd of May 2018**, Pilgrim fare £610. If anyone is wishing to travel as Sick please forward your name to any member of Lourdes Committee in order to be assessed. Lourdes dance will take place in St Colmans Hall Dromore on **Saturday 3rd March**, music by Kevin Kearney. Lourdes fundraising tickets currently on sale, contact any member.

Romero Heartbeat of El Salvador

RISE Theatre presents a new, original play about the life of Blessed Oscar Romero in Bannside Presbyterian Church, Castlewellan Rd, Banbridge on Thur 1st March at 7.30pm. Suggested donation £10.

Tea and Chat

Will take place next Sunday in St Colmans Hall after 11am Mass. Everyone welcome.

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited during the week.