

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A • 5 March 2023 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 2



SHOWING YOUR REAL FACE

MATTHEW 17:1-9

I lived in a Redemptorist community many years ago with an old confrere I will call Jack. Jack was a very holy man, but he always looked dour and never smiled. He had a long, sombre face, and he suffered from scruples. He was constantly worrying about his sins and anxious to go to confession.

Then one day, Jack had a visit from a childhood friend, who reminded Jack of a funny incident that had happened in their school days. Suddenly Jack's face lit up, and he began to shake with laughter, his eyes sparkling, his facial features more alive than I had ever seen them before. It was like looking at a different man, like I had seen his real face for the first time.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shows his real face. He takes his three closest friends up a hill, and something extraordinary happens. Jesus is transfigured. He changes. He is revealed in his heavenly glory as he really is - the beloved Son of the Father.

That's the literal meaning of 'transfiguration' - to change one's face, to show one's true face. And that's what happens on the mountaintop. The disciples see Jesus' real face; his transfigured, glorified face, and they are awestruck. Peter gets so carried away that he wants to erect three tents, to freeze the moment forever.

The reason the transfiguration takes place at this time in Matthew's Gospel is to give the disciples a boost. Jesus knows there will be tough times ahead. He knows what will happen to him in Jerusalem and that life will get difficult for his followers. The transfiguration is a little glimpse of heaven. It shows them who Jesus really is, and gives them a foretaste of what awaits them if they remain faithful to their Master. ■

DO

On the mountaintop, the three disciples saw Jesus in his radiant glory. Try to see the God-given beauty in all you meet.

PRAY

Pray that you will always see the good in others.

SAY

"Lord, keep me faithful to you at all times. Never let me lose sight of you. Amen."

LEARN

Peter, James, and John were so transfixed by their mountaintop experience they wanted it to last forever. It couldn't, not this side of the grave. They had to come back down to earth once more. The lesson is to always live in the moment, to live every moment fully. Attune yourself to the manifest signs of God's presence all around. Live each moment in a way that points to your heavenly destiny.



REFLECT

The transfiguration story offers (at least) three lessons.

First, it holds out a promise for people of faith. It is not easy to be a Christian today or to remain faithful when so many others have walked away. The transfiguration offers us a glimpse of our destiny, our heavenly glory, as followers of Christ.

Second, the Gospel challenges us to see people differently, to see their real face. It's so easy to judge or dismiss people.

We can let an unpleasant encounter with someone colour how we see them. Or we meet someone going through a difficult time and judge them based on what they are like now rather than who they really are. The challenge is to see their real face, their best side, to see their God-created beauty, no matter how difficult.

The Gospel also challenges us to see ourselves differently, to see our real face. Many people find it hard to see themselves the way God sees them. We can focus on the negative - our flaws, our

failures - and think we don't measure up, and our self-esteem suffers. When we look in the mirror, we see only our faults.

But our faith tells us that God has created us in God's image, that God has counted every hair on our head, and God doesn't create failures. We must see ourselves as God made us, our real face.

What a different world we would have, and what different people we would be if we could see ourselves and others the way God sees us - our true face. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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5th March 2023

2nd Sunday of Lent

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet 7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory 11:00am Dromara

Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Sick and housebound will be attended this week.
If anyone wishes to be added onto the list, please let me know.

Anniversaries

Leitrim

Sat 4th Francis & Margaret Smith
Patrick McCartan
Barney O'Hare
Mon 6th Patrick & Margaret McCartan and
Josephine Murphy

Sat 11th Cahal Ward

Gargory

Sun 5th Paschal King

Dromara

Fri 10th Peter McNeill

Dechomet

Sat 11th Brian, Colm and Sr Josephine Rooney

Mary's Meals Thank you to everyone who took part in the Mary's Meals walk back in December and contributed so generously.
Also a Big Thank you to all the people who helped out on the day. By the end of January we had sent through £1,000, which was doubled by the business community. Then a further £110 was donated, which was sent to Mary's Meals in February, so that was a total of £2,110 which feeds 132 children for a year with the Marys Meals school program.

Also, Many Many Thanks to everyone who contributed to the recent Mary's Meals Syria Earthquake appeal.

SVDP: Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07825419067

Safeguarding Contact: P Carville 07789917741

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£561	£956

First Confession

St Mary's Dechomet Tue 7th at 7:30pm

Do This In Memory 12th & 13th March

We welcome into Dromara Parish Hugh Oliver Smith

Earthquake response

Anyone who wishes to support the people in crisis due to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria can make a donation to Trócaire, which will be passed onto Caritas Internationalis Network, who are working there. Please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Earthquake'. This will be passed on as soon as possible.

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Upcoming Spring Events

Tues 7th Mar at 11:15am - Pottery Painting
(by Colours, Ballynahinch). £12 (includes lunch) Booking essential: 07989688939

Tues 14th Mar at 8pm - Local History Talk on "Seven Townlands of Dromara Parish"
by Trevor Martin (Tea/Coffee: Donations Welcome). Everyone Welcome!

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

On Sun 12th Mar at 3pm the Society will host an illustrated Talk and Walk (weather permitting), with Anthony Russell on "St Patrick's C of I Church and Graveyard" at St Patrick's Church, Church St, Newry, BT34 2AH. All welcome.

Southern Area Hospice Services

Needs volunteers for **Big Bucket Day**
Could you help support your local Hospice by donating 1 hour of your time on Fri 24th Mar? The Hospice **Big Bucket Day** is back, and aims to raise £30,000 in one day across the Southern Trust Area.

If you can help in your town, please call Fundraising on (028) 302 67711.