

FIRST READING

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

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 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 sea-shore. 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."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 115

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

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|---|---|
| 1. I trusted, even when I said:
"I am sorely afflicted." | 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. |
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O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

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.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-34

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.

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

Mark 9:2-10

Six days later, 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.

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Holy Family Church

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Priests: Fr. Peter Draper, Fr. John Moriarty (Tel: 725193)

Sunday Mass: 11.00 am.

Weekday Mass: Thur: 9.15am. (Other weekdays: 9.15am at St. Anthony's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: on request

Holy Family Primary school: 727471 **Covenant Books:** 735993

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Listen to Him

'The transfiguration of Jesus must have been a glorious experience for Peter, James and John. They wanted to stay there, as we all do when we have a peak experience. But they had to descend into the valley, to live their lives, to follow Jesus. It doesn't seem that we grow in depth if we only have peak experiences, if we stay on the mountain top. Things have trouble growing on mountaintops. Beyond the tree line almost nothing will grow because it is too cold and there is a lack of moisture. Living things grow best in the valley: they can develop roots; they are grounded. While they may lack the excitement of mountain peaks, valleys tend to be growing places. But it is in the valley that we really acquire depth, rootedness, strength and flexibility. That is where we are called to mature emotionally and spiritually. Of course, we need both; we can't always live in the valley.' [1]

'Often our reading of today's gospel focuses on what is seen but do we sometimes emphasise the **light** of transfiguration to the exclusion of the **voice** of transfiguration? We are looking but are we listening? A voice came **from the cloud** and said, "This is my Son, my Beloved; listen to him!" 'Listen' is the only thing the disciples are told throughout this whole event. Listening is central to transformation. Yet Mark records no words or teaching from Jesus on the mountaintop. Jesus is silent. So it must be about more than words, instructions, and lessons. True listening is an interior quality, a way of being. It is more about the heart than the ears. And it is more about silence than words. Ultimately, listening is about presence.' [2]

'We need to find our venue of transformation. For some it might be art, for others it might be poetry or silence or being vulnerable in the presence of that person in whose presence we're taken to the deeper place. Each one of us needs to find our own place that grants entrance into the deeper place and then be faithful to that.' [3] 'Today we are being invited to find that place, to be present, to be open, to be receptive to the one who is always present to us, whether we are on the mountaintop or in the valley or covered by the cloud of unknowing.' [2]

Adapted :[1] Queen of Apostles Community qac-ohio.org [2] Michael Marsh [3] James Finley

Second Sunday in Lent Year B

28th February 2021

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 27th February 2021

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Bill Ellis	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Philip Kramer For our parish Private intention	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Gerard Knight	<i>Feast: St. David</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Brian Newsham	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Barbara Twine	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Meta Duggan (100th)	
Fri 9.15am 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Pauline Harvey	<i>Stations of the Cross. on zoom</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jim Hamlet	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish Private intention William & Ellen Kelly	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>

Masses received this week: Meta Duggan, Pauline Harvey, Evelyne Bamber, Bill Ellis, Philip Kramer.

Last Weekend: Attendance 28. Offertory £80.00. Thank you for your generosity.

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray for Church leaders as they continue to deliver their ministry to parishioners. We give thanks for their endurance, keeping the faithful nourished.

We pray for families during lockdown trying to maintain their jobs whilst supporting their children's home learning. May the Holy Spirit bless them with patience and resilience.

We pray for all NHS workers. We ask the Holy Spirit to bless and sustain those suffering exhaustion and fatigue and protect them during the on-going pandemic.

We pray for ourselves this Lent that we may continue to observe our Lenten resolutions and be led, by the Holy Spirit, to a deeper, more meaningful, faith life.

We remember in our prayers those of the parish who are suffering ill-health just now, and those who care for them, particularly: Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Vera, Lawrence Dunnagan, Trevor Hughes, Claire, Joyce Hilton, Rev John Kilshaw;

those who have died recently: Tom Butler, Patricia Hayes;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Cornelius Crimmings, Ken Welsby, Elizabeth Collier, Arthur Bielby, Paul Ashton, Vivien Garner, Agnes Crozier, Phyllis Bons, Norah Prince, Alex Hunter, Bertha (Vicky) Bamber, Ella O'Neill, Robert Howarth, George Hayes, Richard Holden, Josephine Johnson, James Parker, Tommy Bamber, Molly Carey, May they rest in peace.

LENT

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

Envelopes can be returned today. Thank you. You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent, or by texting LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10, (or substitute any other amount e.g. LENT 20).NB If you do not wish to receive marketing communications text LENTNOINFO. You can ring 0303 303 3030 or send to CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7JB. St. Anthony's CAFOD Group have produced a video for this. It is available on Youtube from 10.15am. See <https://youtu.be/bxWgyBl7svE>

Stations of the Cross.

We are not able to have the Stations in church but some members of St. Anthony's parish will present them on Zoom every Friday. 'Doors open' at 5.45. Session starts 6.00pm prompt. Meeting ID: 860 7625 5774 Passcode: 068559

Food Bank

For Easter our Food Bank need pasta, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, tomatoes, tuna, milk, cream, eggs. Ideally these are needed by the 2nd week in March. Thank you.

Fairtrade Fortnight, - 'United by Fairtrade'

You are warmly invited to join an online event. 'United by Fairtrade' on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021 at 7pm. Book through Eventbrite as below (it's all free) and you will be sent the Zoom link. See <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/united-by-fairtrade-tickets-141951722423>

Adam Gardner, Head of Campaigns at the Fairtrade Foundation, will talk about the challenges currently faced by farmers and workers in the global south – the 'key workers beyond our borders' - and what we can do. Anne Garsed 07813 870641

Vacancy: Diocesan Faith & Justice Worker

Lancaster Diocese is looking for a part-time Faith and Justice worker and co-ordinator with the Commission Team to work throughout the Diocese to engage with parishes, schools and other institutions in order to advance the understanding of, and active engagement in Catholic Social Teaching and issues arising from it.

Further details can be obtained from: Margaret McSherry, Administrator Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission, Email: lfjcm@gmail.com Tel:07864012385

Download <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletterJob%20Description%20and%20Person%20Specification%20FJ%20February%202021.docx>

Livestreaming Mass

As well as normal Mass in church we are now able to livestream the 9.30am Mass from St. Anthony's church. Go to the St. Anthony of Padua YouTube page for the link.

First Holy Communions

We're looking at using Zoom or Microsoft Teams to set up preparation for the sacraments of reconciliation and first holy communion. Its not ideal and no preparation can ever be as good as being at Mass each week, gathering with the parish community around the altar of the Lord. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Confirmations may also have to be delayed until next year.

Castlerigg Youth Service

The Youth Service at Castlerigg Manor are launching two online groups for young people to come together, have a laugh, make some friends, and deepen their faith.

Overflow, an online group for 18-30s, meets on Mondays. See www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/overflow to sign up. Rise, for young people in years 7 to 9, but sign up now to keep up to date www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/riseonline