

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Address: Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham, TS23 2EP

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2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
Week Beginning: 25th February 2024
Prayer Week: 2

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Sunday 25th February <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
Monday 26th February	10:00am	Marcella Varey	Holy Rosary
Tuesday 27th February	10.00am	Colin Mason	St Joseph's school
Wednesday 28th February	7.00pm	Owen Duffy	Holy Rosary
Thursday 29th February	10.00am	Angela & Winnie Rowden	Holy Rosary
Friday 1st March <i>St David of Wales</i>	10.00am	NBF	St John's
Saturday 2nd March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent (Vigil)</i>	5.00pm	Louisa Dalton	St John's
Sunday 3rd March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary

Please pray for the sick and everyone who is ill:

Rev. Dan Mckie, Sarah McAllister, Max Simpson, Carol Brownlee, Grace Ollie, Judy Houchen, Peter Smith, Cai Rive, Avril Wordsworth, Lily Ward-Thurlbeck, Rose Wall, Peter Chapman, Christine Rooney, Brian Kane, Margaret Hitchinson, Helen Webb, Jim Hodgson, Fr Stephen Dye, Judith Sowerby, Kate Williams, Faustina Morgan, Maureen Maddren, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian, Sheila Allen, May Hutchinson, Sheila Holmes

Please remember those lately dead or with anniversaries:

BEREAVEMENT GROUP-

Meeting in sacristy Holy Rosary, Tuesday(27th) at 6.30pm. If you are interested in what we do and what is involved, please come along.

English Martyrs School, Hartlepool, is looking to appoint- Lay Chaplain- further info' 01429 or recruitment@ems.bhcet.org.uk (cf. poster) and a Head of RE " " " " " (cf. poster)
 Closing date for applications- 4th March.

GIFT AID

A reminder to all currently signed up to the Gift Aid scheme- Please check you are paying sufficient income tax to cover the amount we claim from HMRC. Please advise us of any change of name or address. Anyone wishing to join the scheme can contact the number below. Forms for anyone wishing to start donating to the Parish by bank standing order are available at the back of church. New planned giving envelopes will be available in March, however if you wish to change over to standing order please make contact ASAP. All contributions made by each method are gratefully received and details are treated with utmost confidentiality. For more information, please contact Caroline Kelly 07899788760

400 Club

There are spare numbers if anyone wishes to join.
January Draw: £100 (2) F. Hutchinson/ £100 (391) A. Marshall
 £50 (167) M. Kelly/ £50 (222) S. Gatenby

Friendship Group- Pie & Pea Supper. Monday March 25th, 6.30pm
 Catholic Club. Tickets (£5) available after Mass

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Over the years I have gathered a collection of various lives of the saints in the form of CTS (Catholic Truth Society) pamphlets. I will leave a selection of these in the rack at Holy Rosary and the table at St John's. Please take and read and pass them on to others. I do not need them returned. The saints are our heroes and heroines. They point out how to love and serve God and as members of our family they pray for us!

Statue of Our Lady

For many years the statue was available to parishioners to have in their homes for a week. **MARCH** now on noticeboard. Please sign up.

Stations of the Cross and Exposition- Sunday, Holy Rosary, 4pm

Confessions Saturday, St John's, 10.30-11am

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 24:6,2,22

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

THE COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of 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 built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he 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 seashore. 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.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 115:10. 15-19 R. Ps 114:9

**R) I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **(R)**

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. **(R)**

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. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

**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

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse us of our faults
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 17:5

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

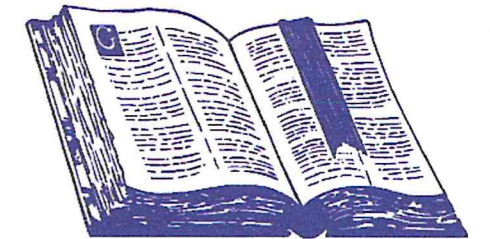
GOSPEL REFLECTION



It may seem a bit strange to have the Gospel of the Transfiguration during Lent. Peter, James and John are completely overcome by the vision of the transfigured Jesus, as

well as by the presence of Moses and Elijah. They were also frightened, but Peter was ready to make the most of it and wanted to make three tents for them, probably thinking that they were going to stay around for a while. But Moses and Elijah disappeared almost immediately and only Jesus remained. Jesus wanted the three Apostles to know who he really was: 'This is my Son, the Beloved...' Then Jesus, warned them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after he had risen

from the dead. Although the Apostles were very close to Jesus, there were many occasions when they clearly had no idea what he was talking about, and this was one of them. We too often have the same problem. We listen to the Word of God, we frequent the mass and the sacraments, but we often don't hear what Jesus is saying to us.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE BENEFITS AND LIMITS OF LIBERAL APPROACHES

169. In some closed and monochrome economic approaches, for example, there seems to be no place for popular movements that unite the unemployed, temporary and informal workers and many others who do not easily find a place in existing structures. Yet those movements manage various forms of popular economy and of community production. What is needed is a model of social, political and economic participation "that can include popular movements and invigorate local, national and international governing structures with that torrent of moral energy that springs from including the excluded in the building of a common destiny", while also ensuring that "these experiences of solidarity which grow up from below, from the subsoil of the planet - can come together, be more coordinated, keep on meeting one another".¹⁴³

14. Ibid.

The Fire of Love*

BLESSINGS OF THE SOLITARY LIFE

Many people place life in community above a life of solitude. That is because they have no experience of solitude. If they had, they would most likely think differently. They think that to 'be alone' is being without company and therefore lonely. But we cannot 'be alone' in any real way if God is with us.

If we have chosen the solitary life and live it properly the words of God are applicable to us: 'I will lead her into solitude and speak to her heart' (Hos. 2: 14). Choosing solitude is making time for devotion and contemplation, continuing in a wholehearted effort to love Christ. Even if we are physically among people, we never cease longing for heaven, and are far removed in spirit from a sinful way of life.

Hermits have one controlling motive:

They love God and neighbour

They despise worldly approval

They hold others as better and more worthy than they are.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press