

# Second Sunday of Lent



Take me home!

16.03.2025

## Priest's Tidings

Once in a while, perhaps in a rare moment when we are very much discouraged, we deeply encounter the Lord in prayer, or we meet a kind and understanding person who lights up our face with the warmth of understanding and kind love. Such moments can keep us going for a long time. Would that the eucharist, and our encounter with the Lord here, could be such a moment that keeps us going and disposes us to light up the lives of others.

At one time or another we have all seen the face of a person light up by good news, or a moment of real happiness. One day Jesus' face too lit up, became radiant and was totally transformed by the realisation that his work and suffering would not be in vain. May we also know moments when our faces light up with deep happiness and when we bring this radiance to the faces and hearts of others. In this Eucharist we ask the Lord to work this transfiguration in us and to let us bring it to others..



*Fr Hugo*

**Entrance Hymn:**

593 – At the name of Jesus,

**Collect:**

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,

and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever....**Amen.**

### **First Reading:**

Reading from the book of Genesis.

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**R./The Lord is my light and my salvation...**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? **R/**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer me. Of you my heart has spoken, 'Seek his face.'. **R/**

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help..**R./**

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!**R./**

## Second Reading:

Reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians .

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Gradual Hymn:

My faith Looks up to thee,

My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Saviour Divine;  
Now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away;  
Oh, let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine.

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As Thou hast died for me,  
Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless  
be,  
A living fire.

When life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my Guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

When ends life's passing  
dream,  
When death's cold sullen  
stream  
Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Saviour, then in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O lift me safe above  
A ransomed soul.

## Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke .

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.



This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## Prayers of Intercession

Father, as we give you thanks for our freedom and ability to choose we pray for all who are being persecuted for their faith. We remember those who live in homes where faith is discouraged or scorned. We ask your blessing on all who are struggling with their faith or who are tempted to turn their back on you.

Lord, we come to you:  
**you are our light and salvation.**

We rejoice in the good things of our land. We pray that justice and freedom will be for all peoples. We remember today all who are imprisoned for speaking out against evil or for resisting a corrupt regime. We also pray today for the peace of Jerusalem.

Lord, we come to you:  
**you are our light and salvation.**

We give thanks for our homes and for those who have provided us with love and security. We ask your blessing upon our families and our friends. We pray for homes where there is division and violence. We remember especially today children who are taken into care and children who are in danger.

Lord, we come to you:  
**you are our light and salvation.**

We pray for all who work in the healing professions, all who do research in medicines and all who care for ill people. We pray for friends and loved ones who are ill at home or in hospital. We pray especially today for... We ask your blessing upon all whose illness finds no cure.

Lord, we come to you:  
**you are our light and salvation.**

We give thanks for the gift of eternal life and we pray for friends and loved ones who are departed from us. May we rejoice with them in the fellowship of all your saints.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn:**

719 - Lord the light of your love is shining,

**Communion Hymn:**

42 – Longing for light, we wait in darkness,

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn:

494 – I the Lord of sea and sky,

## Prayer and Meditation

### Lectio:

Jesus chooses only his first three disciples – Peter, John and James - to climb a mountain with him for a prayer time. We don't know how long Jesus prays but the disciples fall asleep. It appears that the disciples wake up just in time to witness the end of a remarkable encounter. Jesus' clothes are now dazzling white and he is talking to Moses and Elijah.

The appearance of Moses and Elijah is significant. Moses led the exodus of God's people out of slavery in Egypt and many Jews expected the prophet Elijah to return before the coming of the Messiah. They talk with Jesus about how he will soon fulfil God's purpose through his death (or 'exodus', the literal meaning of Luke's writing here) in Jerusalem. God's salvation plan for mankind, bringing true and lasting deliverance, is being fulfilled in Jesus.

This experience may have strengthened Jesus for the testing days ahead that would culminate with his death on the cross. Luke makes no comment on this. What is clear is that God is present, as indicated by the cloud which veils his glory. As at Jesus' baptism, God speaks. He affirms Jesus as his Son whom he has chosen. And this time God adds the instruction to the disciples to 'listen to him'.

This event, together with the other miracles and teaching that surround it, gave the disciples glimpses of who Jesus was. But they needed to travel much further with Jesus. In fact they needed to meet him after the resurrection to really understand

who he was and his mission on earth.

### Contemplatio

Spend some time treasuring the promises in Romans 10:9-11:

'If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death, you will be saved.'  
(v.9)

'Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.'  
(v.11)

### Meditatio:

- Imagine you were one of the disciples that witnessed this event. How might you have felt? What would you have learnt?
- What has Jesus been chosen for? In what way does his death in Jerusalem fulfil God's purpose?
- In what ways can we 'listen to him' as God told the disciples to do?  
What is your experience of prayer? Do you find it as easy to listen to God as talk to him?.

### Oratio:

Thank God for the words from today's responsorial Psalm: 'The Lord is my light and my salvation'; Thank God each day this week for all the ways he has guided and saved you. Ask him to deepen your appreciation of his salvation for you.

Ask the Holy Spirit to overshadow you, to transform your life so that people around you notice something different about the way you live. Ask God to help you reflect more of Jesus to others.

### Contemplation:

Consider the glory of Jesus' transfigured body. For Christians, Paul offers us a tremendous promise, 'He will change our weak mortal bodies and make them like his own glorious body...' (Philippians 3:21).

Consider what it means that we are now 'citizens of heaven' (Philippians 3:20).

## What's happening in our Parish!

**Sunday — Mass at 9:30 am**

### **Celebration Dates for your Diary**

Mothering Sunday 30th March

Easter Sunday 20th April

First Communion Sunday 11th

May

Cathedral Confirmations

Saturday 7th June

### **Regular Giving**

Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. We are beginning a new campaign for regular giving so that we can continue to improve our facilities, grow our church community and make it sustainable. Please pray about how you

can give and fill out a form, available from Cynthia

### **Summer Youth Pilgrimage**

We are excited to announce that we are taking part in the national youth pilgrimage to

Walsingham, where 500 young people from across the country will attend from the 4th-8th August. The total cost is £100, but places are limited so to secure your place, please register

before the 30th April and pay a £50 deposit (the remaining £50 is due by June 30th).

Youth Club

**Our Youth Club** currently runs every week on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road. Please spread the word!

### **Men's Club**

Our next meeting of 'RAMS' will take place at Christ Church on Saturday 12th April, 3-5pm. Please spread the word!

### **Donate :**

We receive no regular state funding to look after St Matthew's building. Anything you are able to give is greatly appreciated.



## **CONTACT US**

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