



Stained glass in Votivkirche in Vienna, Austria depicting the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor

In the Gospel tradition, the story of the transfiguration of Jesus stands at the beginning of Jesus' journey to Judaea and Jerusalem, where the events of the paschal mystery will take place.

This incident corresponds to the narrative of Jesus' baptism, which inaugurates his mission in Galilee. There are several significant details: the high mountain is traditionally a place of revelation and the cloud is a sign of the divine presence; Elijah and Moses represent the Prophets and the Law of Jewish heritage; the heavenly voice speaks to the disciples, whereas the baptism was a personal experience of Jesus himself; Jesus commands the disciples to keep silent about what has transpired, this time, until he is risen.

Mark tells us that Jesus was "transfigured": his glorified body shines through his garments, rendering them brilliantly white. Thus the three disciples are given a glimpse of Jesus' true identity. Their reaction is that of someone who has experienced something of the divine: they are awestruck. But glory comes at a price: immediately after the abrupt ending of the episode, a reference to the coming events in Jerusalem appears. The cross makes its presence felt: the title "Son of Man" is usually associated with the suffering Jesus. Jesus had spoken earlier about his future passion and in that context had given his teaching on discipleship. Now he introduces the theme of "rising from the dead", which Peter, James and John discuss among themselves; but rising from the dead presupposes the passion and death of Jesus which will precede it. ■

REFLECT

If you want to watch and properly enjoy a film or the recording of a sports event, there is nothing worse than someone telling you the ending or the final score. Sometimes you will be warned that a "spoiler alert" is coming and that you should turn away now! This incident of the transfiguration – or transformation – of Jesus, which occurs at the mid-point of his ministry, gives us a glimpse of the end of the story. It shows us Jesus Christ in glory, but sets this vision against the background of his passion and death, as he sets out on his journey to Jerusalem and his destiny. At this point, as we have set out on our journey with Jesus through Lent, we are also given an assurance – a sneak preview – that Calvary will not be the end of the story.

The words of the voice from the cloud are addressed to us today, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Jesus has spoken in the Gospel about the cost of being his disciple and taking up the cross and following him.

Occasionally, we may experience a strong sense of the presence of God in our lives, but this feeling does not usually last very long. Peter's reaction to the vision of the glorified Jesus is to build tents to prolong the experience, but this is not to be. Peter, like ourselves, has to come down from the mountain, back to normal life. ■

LEARN

The text of the Gospel talks about Jesus being "transfigured" in the presence of his disciples.

Elijah is the figure who represents the prophetic tradition of Israel: Moses personifies the Law, the Torah.

The site of the transfiguration is traditionally located at Mount Tabor, the highest peak in the Holy Land.



SAY

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

(1 Samuel 3:9)

DO

Spend some time looking at the crucifix: reflect on how it is the ultimate symbol of Jesus' giving of himself in service to the Father for our sake.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.**

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, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

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

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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 Psalm 115

Response:

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

1. 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.)
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. (R.)

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. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

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

**Glorify 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!"
Glorify and praise to you, O Christ!**

GOSPEL Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next two lines)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

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.
Amen.

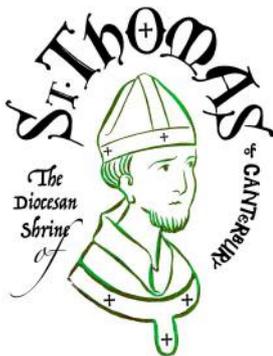
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**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.
Amen.

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>  St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is Closed & Linda is working from home. Linda can access emails via the church email so please contact her this way initially.

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00pm (Vigil): Welfare of Tommy & Suzy Lee & Family

Sunday 28th Feb: 2nd Sunday of Lent Mk 9:2-10

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Stephen Slaughter - for peace **CAFOD Fast Day**

11.00am: Welfare of Clark Family (*Martina Clark*)

3.00 pm: Stations of the Cross

4.00 pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00 pm: Peg and Henri Lecerf - RIP (*Anne Rowe*)

Monday 1st Mar: St David Lk 6: 26-28

7.30 am: David Vance - RIP (1st Ann.) (*Claudine & Mandy*)

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Joseph McKee - RIP (*McKee Family*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Tuesday 2nd Mar: Feria Mt 23: 1-12

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Lanette - prayers for recovery from Covid-19

6.00 pm Live-streamed Prayer

Wednesday 3rd Mar: Feria Mt 20: 17-28

7.30 am: Welfare of Charlie & Elizabeth Lee

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

10.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Paul McLoughlin on his birthday

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 4th Mar: Feria Lk 16: 19-31

7.30am: Helen Brown - RIP

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Tommy Lee, Ellen and family - for healing

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John

Friday 5th Mar: Feria Mt 21:33-46

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Welfare of Mary Lau (*Martina Clark*)

1 - 3 pm: Church open for private prayer and adoration

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Francis Brown - RIP

Saturday 6th Mar: Feria Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

10.30am: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Teresa Kelly - RIP (*Bernadette Lyons*)

6.00pm (Vigil): W Dabrowski - RIP (*Dabrowski Family*)

Sunday 7th Mar: 3rd Sunday of Lent Jn 2: 13-25

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Welfare of Douglas Strien (*Mrs Strien*)

11.00am: John O'Driscoll - RIP (*Catherine Ashman*)

3.00 pm: Stations of the Cross

6.00 pm: Joan McFadden - RIP (*Anne Rowe*)

RCIA: First Scrutiny

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee, Tony Kenny, Michael Jones, Douglas Ricketts, Maurice Crosland, Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnell, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Margaret Willis, Rev Paul Saunders, Sylvia Guy, Pat Gill, Baby Layla Green and Paul Card

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Margaret Stevenson and Raymond Scott (Feb)
Danielle Rosher and Maria Bryant (Mar)

SECOND COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:
This weekend: 27/28 Feb: For CAFOD FAST DAY
Next weekend: 6/7 Mar: No second collection

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Sunday during Lent:

28 February at 3.00 pm;
7 March at 3.00 pm
14 March at 3.00pm;
21 March at 3.00 pm; and
28 March at 3.00pm

100 CLUB WINNERS: Our £20 winners for January and February 2021 are: Annie Judge (33); Scott Family (36) and Caitlin Mellor (94); Richard Caraccio (70)

100 CLUB MEMBERSHIP: We have six spaces in the 100 club due to people not confirming that they want to retain their membership. If any parishioner wishes to join the 100 Club for 2021, or is very late renewing membership and would like to continue, please contact Linda via email on canterbury@rcaos.org.uk urgently. If you have renewed but not paid or completed the forms please do so urgently. For any queries, please email Linda.

From Fr Anthony ...

We are now walking the Lenten road to Easter. It has been over a week. How are things going for you? Whatever you are doing for this Lenten season or whatever you are planning to do, don't let it distract you from understanding why you are living and praying the way you are. You have been given a unique opportunity to listen. Lent is a listening season. This is clear in the reading for this Sunday. Abraham, hears God asking him to sacrifice his beloved son on Isaac. As one writer said, "God is not a cruel master who calls for painful acts of obedience from his servants in order to satisfy his own divine egoism." Isaac, a name which means "smile of God" was the most precious gift that God had given Abraham and Sarah. God asked Abraham "are you prepared to give back this smile of God?" Abraham trusted in God. He believed that God knew what he was doing. He knew that Isaac was essential to God's promise to give him dependents. And he put God first. It is a challenge for you and me today. Am I prepared to love God first? The right order, as Bishop Barron says, is to love God first and then to love everything and everybody else for the sake of God. When Abraham was tested by God he was prepared to sacrifice everything that was most dear and love God first. The reward was "I will shower blessing on you. I will make your descendants as many as the stars." What for us is the thing and person we love above all? Am I working on putting God first before all and then loving everything and every person for the sake of God?

Jesus took the three disciples, Peter, James and John to the top of the mountain. As Jesus was transfigured, the voice from the cloud that covered Moses, Jesus and Elijah said, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Peter wanted to stay on the mountain. It was a wonderful moment for him. Seeing Jesus as he really is. He was wanting to experience God's power and consolation all the time. But he had to come down from the mountain and with the other two he would go with Jesus through his suffering and death. This was listening to Jesus. He had already made one prediction of his passion and death. If you love me above all things then there is not only glory but also suffering in love and ultimately resurrection. It is so easy for me to pray the prayer of Abandonment written by Charles de Foucauld, especially the last few lines:

Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures –
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.

This Lent we struggle to let go of our selfishness, pettiness, complacency and comfortable way of life so that we can surrender ourselves into God's hands without reserve.

Canterbury Street Pastors are on the look out for new recruits. For more information see the poster in the Narthex or email Andrew Pantling, (Coordinator), at coordinator@canterburystreetpastor.org.uk or call him on 07557533420.

The Canterbury Street Pastors team hold weekly prayer sessions online for the work of Street Pastors and the city. They meet every Saturday from **9pm-10pm** (new time) via Zoom.

SVP: Requests for help continue to flood in, but through your generosity we are able to meet the demand. The collection last weekend was in the amount of £854.00
THANK YOU.

CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE. Please use only the email canterbury@rcaos.org.uk to contact the Parish office as the Parish Administrator, Linda, does not have access to any other email addresses. Thank you

Get our Parish Newsletter emailed directly to you by subscribing at stthomasofcanterbury.com/newsletters/
This weekly eNewsletter also shares additional information from around the Parish.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION; Parents of children registered for First Holy Communion, are reminded that Zoom Meetings with Father John start on Monday, 1st March. Contact the Parish if you have not received the invitation details by Sunday, 28 Feb.

THANK YOU to everyone who continues to send in their Mass donations, weekly collections and other very generous payments to the parish funds. Thank you too for all the generous donations to our SVP and to CAFOD. Please be assured they are being passed to the right people.