

## Simplicity of Joy

It was time for them to have an experience that would lift them from the doldrums ... it was time for one luminous moment. They enjoyed the experience, whatever it was. "Lord, it is good for us to be here," said Peter. He even offered to erect some kind of monument so that they could stay there. However, he would soon be dragged beyond his initial enthusiasm. It is significant that Jesus told them not to talk about it. Some things, he seems to say, cannot be understood by the busy mind.



## What Category?

Even in the face of less mysterious things, our mental categories are limited and provisional. How hard it is sometimes to describe some event in one's own life. "Did it really happen, or did I only imagine it, or was it something I remember dimly from childhood, or saw on television, or heard my parents talk about...?" In real life, fact and symbol and inner experience all come together. How could anyone know what category to put the Transfiguration in?

## Don't Even Think

Many people speak to having spiritual experiences of some kind. There is nothing exceptional about this. It stands to reason that there are moments when your mind is clearer, quieter, more receptive. The temptation is to grab these experiences greedily, to consider yourself 'enlightened', and to begin to see yourself as different.

The best advice is the same as the advice to those disciples: don't talk about it, don't even think about it. Talking and thinking will make 'a thing' out of it. Let it do its work, simply, silently. This is how the Kingdom of God comes about, as Jesus said on many occasions. Read a few of the parables of the Kingdom:

- The Sower (Mt 13:3-23; Mk 4:1-20; Lk 8:5-15),
- The Mustard Seed (Mt 13:31-32),
- The Leaven (Mt 13:33),
- The Hidden Treasure (Mt 13:44),
- The Pearl (Mt 13:45-46).

## Summary

*In the Old Testament, a cloud was frequently looked upon as an image of God's glorious presence.*

*The Transfiguration is like a preview of the Resurrection.*

## Question

*How does the Kingdom of God come about?*

## Prayer

*Lord, give me the grace to see your presence in the world around me.*



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Vol.47; No.14; Second Sunday of Lent, Year A; 1 Mar 2026; Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 32, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9; Next Week: Water.  
Sat 28 Feb Weekday : Sun 1 Mar Lent 2 :  
Mon 2 Mar Weekday : Tue 3 Mar Weekday :  
Wed 4 Mar St Casimir : Thu 5 Mar St Kieran :  
Fri 6 Mar Weekday : Sat 7 Mar Ss Perpetua and Felicity : Sun 8 Mar Lent 3.



# SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Jesus-Human & Divine; Second Sunday of Lent, Year A; 1 Mar 2026

## Transfiguration

*The Transfiguration of Christ is recorded in each of the first three Gospels (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9). The fourth does not recount the story at all, but John 1:14 could possibly be a reference to it:*

*"We have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)*

*And St Peter wrote, "We were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain." (2 Pt 1:16-18)*



How are we to understand this account of the Transfiguration today?

- As an historical event?
- As a symbolic story?
- Or as a spiritual experience?

In Mark's account of it, Peter "didn't know what to say." If those disciples were at a loss, what kind of clarity can we get today? The scholars tell us to look at its context. The voice from heaven was heard once before, at Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. In both cases a cloud overshadowed him. In the Old Testament, a cloud was frequently looked upon as an image of God's glorious presence (for example, in Exodus 19:9; Leviticus 16:2; etc.).

The scene of the Transfiguration is like a backward glance to the beginning of Jesus' public life. It is also a glance to the future: it is like a moment's preview of the Resurrection. The beginning and the end of the story are brought together in one luminous moment.

## The Disciples' View

But again, how are we to understand it? Let's see first what the disciples made of it.

In all three gospels it comes just after Jesus' first prediction of his suffering and death. Such talk must have seemed incomprehensible to them ... their minds turned instead on fame and success. To make matters worse, Jesus hinted that as followers of his, they would suffer a similar fate. This must have added terror to incomprehension.

**Parish Office Contact Numbers and Email Addresses**

Christ the Redeemer	02890309011	<a href="mailto:christtheredeemer@downandconnor.org">christtheredeemer@downandconnor.org</a>
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St Anne's	02890610112	<a href="mailto:stannes@downandconnor.org">stannes@downandconnor.org</a>

**Pope Leo's prayer intentions for March: *For disarmament and peace.***

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**Celebration of the Way of the Cross During Lent**

Each Wednesday during the Season of Lent, you are invited to make a pilgrimage with the cross. The 'pilgrim cross' containing the Relic of the True Cross will be the focus during each celebration.

**Nativity** 4<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

*Intention: For the sanctification of Priests*

**St. Anne's** 11<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

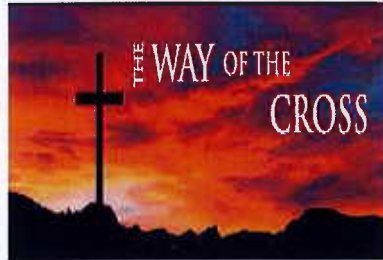
*Intention: For the Sick*

**Christ the Redeemer** 18<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

*Intention: For those suffering from addictions*

**St. Luke's** 25<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

*Intention: For the Deceased*



**Baptisms** We welcome into the family of God recently baptised, Noah Ray Morrissey

**During Lent – Good Shepherd House** You are cordially welcome to join the Neo-catechumens each weekday morning, during Lent at 6am in the Good Shepherd House.



**Recently Deceased Anniversaries** Maeve McKibbin & Kathleen McNulty  
Joseph McCluskey Jnr (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)  
Rose Douglas

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time  
*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them*

**Off the drink for Lent** Parishioners who wish to take a short-term pledge for Lent are invited to visit [www.pioneers.ie](http://www.pioneers.ie) or to speak to a Pioneer in the parish

**Mary's Meals**

A representative from Mary's Meals will speak at mass next 8<sup>th</sup> March about their life-changing work of feeding a daily school meal to children in some of the world's poorest countries of the world and how their work has grown through the parish's support. Mary's Meals welcomes your continued prayers in support of their work. There will be a collection after mass if you wish to support financially.

**Beginning Weekend Experience** - The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Beginning Experience is offering "a weekend away for a lifetime of change" at Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre, Larne on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. To find out more contact Marie 07896119669 or Pauline 07519289185 or email [belfastbe@yahoo.com](mailto:belfastbe@yahoo.com)

**Weekly Offering**

Envelope Offering: £443.00

Many thanks for your continued support.

**If you require a box of the weekly collection envelopes, please contact the parish office**



**Mozart's Requiem** Cappella Caeciliana warmly invites you and your parish community to a special performance of Mozart's *Requiem* on Sunday 29 March at 6:30pm in Clonard Monastery. **Tickets:**  
General Admission £20 | Under 25s £5

**A Life of Adoration, Prayer, Intercession for the World Vocation**

**Discernment Weekends** 20- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 17-19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Single Women Age (18-35) Please contact: Sr Mairéad OP, Monastery of St Catherine of Siena, The Twenties, Drogheda, Co. Louth. A92 KR84 Tel: 041 9838524; E-mail: [sienavoc@gmail.com](mailto:sienavoc@gmail.com)  
[www.dominicannuns.ie](http://www.dominicannuns.ie)

**St Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk**

☘ Don't miss a DIVINE invitation to come on St Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk in Downpatrick with guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on Saturday March 14 in honour of Ireland's patron saint and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Saint Patrick Centre. Includes the fabulous 180° IMAX film of St Patrick, with internal bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch, an authentic Camino passport and a 6 mile pilgrimage walk finishing at St Patrick's grave. A special 25% discount price is on offer of £40 (normally £55) To book ring 02844 61900 or [www.thesaintpatrickcentre.com](http://www.thesaintpatrickcentre.com) ☘

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend** : 20 -22 March 2026 a weekend like no other.

Venue: "St Marys" Knock, Co. Mayo Online: [www.marriagecounter.ie](http://www.marriagecounter.ie)

**Eucharistic Healing Retreat in Knock Shrine**, led by gifted Croatian Priest, Fr

Rozo Palić Saturday & Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Venue: St. John's Welcome Centre; Saturday 10:00 am - 6:30 pm & Sunday 10:00 am - 4:30 pm. He will be supported by his Croatian Music Ministry team; no prior booking required; everyone is most welcome and please bring a packed lunch. For further enquires please contact, Patricia on 089 9466193 or Fiona on [fionatjennings@yahoo.com](mailto:fionatjennings@yahoo.com).