



Second Week of Lent (Year B): 28th February/ 1st March 2021
Reflection / Homily – Mgr Daniel McHugh

“This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him”

In the first week of Lent we have turned away from sin and confronted the mindless selfishness that so often dominates our days. This second week we focus on who it is that inspires our journey and where we are going. It begins with the wonderful account of the Transfiguration of Our Lord: the chosen disciples see Him in a new way; He is not just a great Rabbi, an extraordinary teacher; He is the Son of God, the one who through suffering and death will rise to new life in the Resurrection and “return to take us with Him”.

Recently we have seen an ordinary Centenarian, Captain Sir Tom, revealed as a man of extraordinary inspiration and an embodiment of the goodness of human beings, given the opportunity to express his love and admiration of the care of the front line health and care staff in the Pandemic.

In the moment on the mountain, written about by St Mark in this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus is revealed as the Messiah and the type of Messiah He is to be. For Jesus it was the time when He knew that the Cross was the way to new life; for the Chosen Disciples it was a further step on the journey to a deeper understanding of what Jesus had meant when He said earlier “that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again.” We are told that as they came down from the mountain they discussed among themselves what “rising from the dead would mean”.

The Apostles had seen a new Jesus on the mountain. Pollard in his Homily for this Sunday says: “it is a preview, as it were, of His future glory beyond the Cross”.

Like the Disciples we are on a journey with Jesus, and it is at a time when we are asking what is it that God wants from us to help continue the building of the Kingdom that Jesus began after His Baptism. God willed that Jesus “share in solidarity our human condition” a solidarity that will bring Him to His death...”. “It’s not that God wants His death” says Ferlita in his commentary.

Abraham in the first reading thought that the sacrifice of his first born son Isaac (a custom common among pagan religions) might be God’s will, but he learns it is not.

What is it that God wants of me? We must go apart, especially during Lent, to discover God’s will, reflecting on our own experience of how God is working in our lives, what God is moving me toward, what God is removing from my path. Ferlita, a Jesuit, says “St Ignatius almost invariably ended his letters with some such words as these: “May God give you abundant grace to know his will and to fulfil it perfectly”.

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese



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At this moment in the Church Community we are discerning God's will in the light of the change that the Pandemic and other factors has brought about in the living out of our Faith; new structures are being considered that reflect the resources we have and the challenges we face. More emphasis is being placed on the Deanery grouping of Parishes working together. Change is not always something we welcome, any more than the Disciples liked the sound of where Jesus was leading them. What is important is that as a Community of Believers we "Listen to Him". The opening prayer of the Mass for the 2nd Sunday has these words: "O God, who has 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." Amen

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