

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13)

March 5th 2030

2nd Sunday of Lent

Readings p. 155

Genesis 12:1-4a

Abraham has to leave his home and family in order to receive God's blessing.

2 Timothy 1:8-10

God has called us to himself by means of the Good News proclaimed by Jesus and confirmed in his life and death.

St. Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus offers his disciples an insight into his true life and being.

'This is
my Son,
the Beloved;
he enjoys
my favour.
Listen to
him.'



**Today's Psalm
Psalm 32**

The second stage of salvation history is the story of Abraham whose life is a journey in faith. Trusting in God's promise he set out for the unknown on a life journey marked by blessings and trials. Abraham is the model of what faith involves. The psalm chosen to accompany his call may be regarded as a prayer for a journey.

*May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.*

What a beautiful prayer! One to repeat endlessly. It is similar to the prayer that God will let the light of his face shine upon us. We are aware of how photographs of loved ones can sustain us in times of absence. A face comes alive and glows in the presence of love. On the holy mountain of prayer, the face of Jesus shone like the sun for Peter, James and John. And the voice of the Father told them to listen to Jesus. Their memory of vision and voice would carry them through the dark times ahead. Just as the memory of God's promised blessing sustained Abraham in his journey of faith.

The psalmist draws strength from the remembrance of God's word, ever faithful and trustworthy. He visualises the face of God turned lovingly towards him.

*The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love.*

Lent calls us to spend more time listening to God's word and beholding his face as we journey towards the holy mountain of encounter with the Easter Lord.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

Thanks for coming. Thanks for having me. It's great to see you. Welcome home. Life is full of little opportunities to acknowledge the importance of the presence of other people. Moments like these cause us to pause and do something that can be a rare occurrence in our busy lives – appreciate others at the very time we are in their presence. Often we appreciate the presence of others most when we haven't had 'quality' or 'one-on-one' time with them for a while.

When Jesus brings Peter, James and John up the mountain, Peter realises that he is in the midst of a great moment. Not only are these three 'inner circle' disciples getting some alone time with their friend and teacher, but all the signs point to a greater presence in Jesus – his face shines like the sun, his clothes become brilliant white, Moses and Elijah appear. Overcome with the enormity of the occasion, Peter exclaims 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here'.

Many belief systems, and happily also many writers on Christian spirituality, have emphasised the value of living in the present moment and being fully aware of it. Fr Ronald Ronheiser writes: 'Too often we are not present to the beauty, love, and grace that brim within the ordinary moments of our lives...The secret to prayer is not to try to make God present, but to make ourselves present to God.'

Peter recognised the importance of this moment in the presence of God. How often can we say the same?

Triona Doherty

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday March 5 2023

Sun: 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Francis & Fiona Brute

Mon: No Mass today

9.30.am.

Tues: Lenten Weekday

9.30.am: No Mass today

9.Wed RLenten Weekday

9.30.am: No Mass today

Thurs: Lenten Weekday

9.30.am: World Peace

7.00.pm. Michael & Ellen Mullaney

Sun: 3rd Sunday of Lent

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Kev,Inv, Vincent, Joseph, Flanagan

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Email: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Confessions

At your request

Stations of the Cross

Friday 6.40.pm.

On Admittance to Hospital or Nursing Homes

Staff need to be made aware by you: that you, or the member of your family, or the person you accompany, are Catholic, and require the services of the Catholic Chaplaincy.

We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including Ryan Troop; Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth; JC; TThomas Halligan.

CAFOD Family Fast Day 5th March 2023 CAFOD's Family Fast Day is an opportunity for us this Lent to eat simply, to pray and to give what we can. Take home a CAFOD envelope today and put in it whatever you save by fasting on Family Fast Day.

Return the donation next weekend or soon after. You can use the CAFOD envelope to Gift your donation by 25 per cent.

Tfocus this Lent is to support those most affective by the climate

If you are 'giving up for Lent', aim to ensure that your 'giving up' is benefiting the poor and the vulnerable.

· Fairtrade Fortnight 27th Feb-12th March :- Try as many Fairtrade products as you can this fortnight, and commit to buying your favourites throughout the year. St Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (19th March) Look to Saint Joseph on this day as a model of fatherhood in our own families.

World Water Day 22nMarch:- Use this day to focus on our care for God's creation.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March 2023 For victims of abuse

Pope Francis tells us, "In response to cases of abuse, especially to those committed by members of the Church, it's not enough to ask for forgiveness. Asking for forgiveness is necessary, but it is not enough. Asking for forgiveness is good for the victims, but they are the ones who have to be "at the centre" of everything. Their pain and their psychological wounds can begin to heal if they find answers—if there are concrete actions to repair the horrors they have suffered and to prevent them from happening again. The Church cannot try to hide the tragedy of abuse of any kind. Nor when the abuse takes place in families, in clubs, or in other types of institutions. The Church must serve as a model to help solve the issue and bring it to light in society and in families. The Church must offer safe spaces for victims to be heard, supported psychologically, and protected." This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention "...for those who have suffered because of the wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering."

Care for Our Common Home. Carbon Fast For Lent.

In his famous encyclical, Laudato Si, Pope Francis highlights how the lives of people in poor countries are affected for the worst by the changing climate. What we buy, what we eat, how we travel and how we heat our homes all contribute to our carbon footprints. Changing our lifestyles overnight is difficult but we can all begin to take small steps that can change our understanding and behaviour. Doing this during Lent, as part of our Lenten observances, can help us place our actions in the context of our faith and strive to be better stewards of God's creation. Here are a couple of ideas to get you started.

Turn down the thermostat to 18 degrees c. Even one degree will save energy, and money! I

f you're feeling the cold, pull on a woolly jumper!

Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth.

One source claims doing this will save 25 gallons of water a month!

Unplug mobile phone chargers, and anything else that has a transformer attached. 8% of electricity consumed at home is from appliances we aren't even using.

(Some things have to be believed to be seen)

"

Ralph Hodgson, The Skylark and Other Poems"