

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent we ask ourselves the question  
How am I going in terms of my Lenten promises?

The common theme in today's readings is transformation.  
This invites us to work with the assistance of the Holy  
Spirit, to transform our lives by renewing them during lent  
and to radiate the grace of the transfigured Lord around us,  
by lives filled with the spirit.

The first and second readings present salvation history as a  
response to God's call.

The first reading presents the change, or transformation of a  
person into a man of faith, as we hear how God  
transformed Abram, a childless pagan, into Abraham who  
became the prototype of trusting faith and the father of  
God's chosen people – Israel.

Later in genesis 22 we see the strength of Abraham's faith  
when God asked him to sacrifice his only son.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul explains the type of Lenten transformation expected of us.

We should be ready to bear hardship for the gospel and be thankful to God for our call to holiness, not trusting in our own merits, but in the sanctifying grace of God. This passage encourages certain feelings in us of being called, not because of our own good works, but by undeserved grace.

In the Gospel, Jesus transfiguration came about through his conversation with his Heavenly Father as He outlined His plans for Jesus suffering, death and resurrection.

Through Jesus transfiguration, his chosen disciples were made fully aware of His divine glory. Jesus also wanted them to understand that he was not to be a conquering political Messiah. He wanted to strengthen their faith and hope so that they would be prepared for their future ordeal.

It's hard to imagine the feelings that would have overcome these three disciples as they received a preview of the glorious figure Jesus would become after his resurrection.

There were two other examples of transfiguration in the bible, Elijah and Moses both had this experience in the presence of God. However, Jesus transfiguration was different as he was transfigured into a shining figure full of heavenly glory; an example of his divinity.

God's words from the cloud

“This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to Him”.

Are the same words used by God at Jesus' baptism by John in the river Jordan. They summarise the meaning of the Transfiguration: on this mountain God reveals Jesus as His Son, His beloved- the one in whom he is well pleased and to whom we must listen.

During Mass our offering of bread and wine is transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. Hence just as Jesus' transfiguration strengthened his disciples, in their time of

trial, each mass should be our source of heavenly strength against our own temptations and a source of renewal of our lives, our minds and hearts, during lent.

Jesus transfiguration took place on a high mountain, we need to have our own mountain top experience and open our hearts to allow Jesus into our lives.

Lent is a time for transformation in our lives through prayer, penance, fasting and good works. A time for us to become more, selfless, more loving, compassionate and forgiving.

Our Lenten program “up from the waters” has been running for 2 weeks now, attending these sessions is a great way of understanding the meaning of each week of lent, if you haven’t been attending we encourage you to come along.