



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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5 th March 2023 Psalter Week 2	Second Sunday of Lent (Year A) THE TRANSFIGURATION	
First Reading	Genesis 12:1-4 <i>The call of Abraham, father of the People of God.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.	
Second Reading	2 St Paul to Timothy 1:8-10 <i>God calls and enlightens us.</i>	
Gospel Acclimatation	Glory 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." Glory and praise to you, O Christ!	
Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9 <i>His face shown like the sun.</i>	
Saturday 4th March +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (Kathleen Mullen RIP)
Sunday 5th March +	10.30am	Mass (For the Parish)
Monday 6th March <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 7th March Ss Perpetua & Felicity - Commemoration	10.00am	Mass – (Geoffrey Ayles RIP)
Wednesday 8th March St John of God - Religious	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Judy Ashford Int.)
Thursday 9th March St Frances of Rome - Commemoration	6.15pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Bette Galvin RIP)
Friday 10th March <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am 3.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Fr David's Int.) Stations of the Cross
Saturday 11th March <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Morning Mass
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN FIG TREE		
Saturday 11th March +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (For the Parish)
Sunday 12th March +	10.30am	Mass (Bernie Wogan RIP)

EASTER CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH PORCH



SUNDAY 5th MARCH - Please join us for light refreshments after Mass this Sunday. If you are able to help with serving tea/ coffee or washing up on any first Sunday of the month please speak to Áine Cooper or email her on aine.cooper@me.com. Many thanks



LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY – This **Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm** we continue our series of talks for Lent **about prayer** – what prayer is and some different kinds of prayer, how we can learn to pray, and what we can use to help us to pray. Fr David will lead the talks but there will be time for questions and discussion as well. The other dates

for the talks will be **Thursday 16th March and Thursday 30th March**. The talks will begin at **7.30pm** after 7.00pm Mass. Everyone is welcome!



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Stations of the Cross - Throughout Lent, we will be praying the ‘Stations of the Cross’ here at Our Lady’s each **Friday afternoon at 3pm** – everyone welcome.



SVP - PARISH LUNCH

The SVP, now energised by new members, invite you to a little get together over lunch on **Friday 17th March at 1.00pm in the Parish Room**. This is so that we can celebrate together all the good things that happen in the parish. In order to have an idea of numbers please add your name to the list at the back of the Church and let us know if you would like transport. We look forward to seeing you.

RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY: Headteacher, St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School, Luton (L18-L24)

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust are recruiting for a Headteacher at St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School in Luton. The school is two-form entry and has a proud tradition of delivering excellence in Catholic Education, placing the child’s needs at the centre of their teaching and ensuring that all children leave the school with the skills and spiritual qualities they will need for a happy and successful life.

For further information, please contact Kerri Wiseman at Academicis on kwiseman@academicis.co.uk or 07733 628155/01223 907979; or go to www.mynewterm.com/jobs/142264/EDV-2022-SMDPCPS-19513



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Pope Francis asks all Dioceses of the world to ensure that some churches will remain open for 24 hours as a time for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and ready availability for the Sacrament of Confession. This year's 24 Hours for the Lord will take place on 17th – 18th March. The theme for this year's initiative is taken from the Gospel of John: "Neither do I condemn you." (Jn 8:11).

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization says, "On this day, which will be marked by Eucharistic Adoration, individual reflection and an invitation to personal conversion, we are invited to contemplate the image of Jesus who, unlike the crowd which gathers to judge and condemn the woman taken in adultery, offers His infinite mercy as an opportunity for grace and new life."

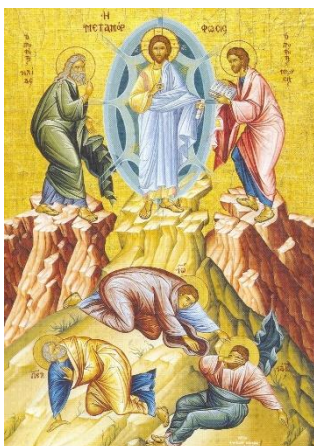
There will be more information in next week's newsletter.



St John of God was born in Portugal in 1495. After leading a dangerous life as a soldier, and wishing to devote the rest of his life to good works, he gave himself up completely to looking after the sick. He founded a hospital at Grenada in Spain and with his followers set up the Order of Hospitallers of St John of God. He was outstanding in his love for the sick and needy. He died at Grenada in 1550.



St Frances of Rome was born in Rome in 1384. She was married when very young and gave birth to three children. She lived in troubled times and gave her goods to the poor and tendered the sick. She was outstanding in virtue especially in humility, patience and devotion to the needy. In 1425 she founded a Congregation of Oblates following the Rule of St Benedict and she died in 1440



From Fr David's desk... Today's Gospel is the scene of Christ's Transfiguration, found in the Gospel according to St Matthew. The following is taken from a **homily of Pope St Leo the Great** (Pope from 440 to 461).

The Lord reveals his glory in the presence of chosen witnesses. His body is like that of the rest of mankind, but he makes it shine with such splendour that his face becomes like the sun in glory, and his garments as white as snow. The great reason for this transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the cross from the hearts of his disciples, and to prevent the humiliation of his voluntary suffering from disturbing the faith of those who had witnessed the surpassing glory that lay concealed.

With no less forethought he was also providing a firm foundation for the hope of holy Church. The whole body of Christ was to understand the kind of transformation that it would receive as his gift: the members of that body were to look forward to a share in that glory which first blazed out in Christ their head.

The Lord had himself spoken of this when he foretold the splendour of his coming: *Then the just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.* Saint Paul the apostle bore witness to this same truth when he said: *I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not to be compared to the future glory that is to be revealed in us.* In another place he says: *You are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

This marvel of the transfiguration contains another lesson for the apostles, to strengthen them and lead them into the fullness of knowledge. Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets, appeared with the Lord in conversation with him. This was in order to fulfil exactly, through the presence of these five men, the text which says: *Before two or three witnesses every word is ratified.* What word could be more firmly established, more securely based, than the word which is proclaimed by the trumpets of both old and new testaments, sounding in harmony, and by the utterances of ancient prophecy and the teaching of the Gospel, in full agreement with each other?

The writings of the two testaments support each other. The radiance of the transfiguration reveals clearly and unmistakably the one who had been promised by signs foretelling him under the veils of mystery. As Saint John says: *The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* In him the promise made through the shadows of prophecy stands revealed, along with the full meaning of the precepts of the law. He is the one who teaches the truth of the prophecy through his presence, and makes obedience to the commandments possible through grace.

In the preaching of the holy Gospel all should receive a strengthening of their faith. No one should be ashamed of the cross of Christ, through which the world has been redeemed.

No one should fear to suffer for the sake of justice; no one should lose confidence in the reward that has been promised. The way to rest is through toil, the way to life is through death. Christ has taken on himself the whole weakness of our lowly human nature. If then we are steadfast in our faith in him and in our love for him, we win the victory that he has won, we receive what he has promised.

When it comes to obeying the commandments or enduring adversity, the words uttered by the Father should always echo in our ears: *This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him.*

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, Ss Perpetua & Felicity, St John of God, St Frances of Rome, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter