

Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

Gen. 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 Rom 8:31-34 Mark 9:2-10

HOMILY

The last twelve months have been a real Stations of the Cross for many especially for people working in our hospitals for our older people living alone, or in nursing homes.

Many of us, as well, in our own ways, have experienced a kind of darkness coming over us. At such times, we appreciate all the more any gift that unexpectedly comes our way to lift our spirits. Earlier on in the week when Sam came in for work, I experienced a kind of darkness sweeping over me. Unexpectedly I found myself telling Sam I would be leaving her alone in the office and that I needed to go up on the hills for a walk.

With that little injection of walking on the hills I came back ‘on top of the world again.’ The one hour walk on the hills just did the job: I became a completely changed person. When times are dark, any small initiative or gesture, a kindly word, a little greeting, a little word of appreciation even a little presence can be transformative. We begin to realize that such little interventions are not that small after all. There is something truly special about these little gestures, there is something of God even.

Today’s gospel reading is the story of a special gift that unexpectedly came to Peter, James and John. It was an experience of light they badly needed. Just before this scene in Mark’s gospel, Jesus had given that dark announcement, that he would undergo great rejection, suffering and death and, not only that but that his disciples too would entail the way of the cross. This came as a shocker because this is not what they anticipated when they left their fishing nets to follow Jesus. With this, the three disciples found themselves in a very dark place. Jesus picked on that straight away. This took him to prompt the three disciples to come along with him to the mountain top. He needed to lift their spirit up. He needed to show them that beyond the coming darkness there was a great light, that beyond the trauma of suffering and death there would be a new and glorious life, for him and for all who believed in him and that Suffering and death would not have the last word.

There are so many people within our community and within our families needing to be lifted up from their dark places. So many hungering for reassurance. So many needing strength and guidance. So many needing to hear that opening question in today’s second reading: “*With God on our side, who can be against us.*” You and me have the mission for setting up such transfiguration moments for people for each other.