

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

The readings during Lent continue to draw us even deeper in to the paschal mystery

- Last Sunday we travelled with Jesus into the desert where he was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights.
- Today second Sunday of Lent we are taken to the top of a high mountain where we find Our Lord praying in the company of his disciples

Faced with the Transfiguration that *'mountain top' experience* sticks to our mind.

It is often tempting for you and me to pray and hope that we will get some of those *'mountain top'* experiences' regularly.

In fact, some Christians are ever hungering for that dramatic experience of God and are taken back when it is not that easily forthcoming.

Q: Are we preoccupied looking for dramatic mountain top experiences?

- I must say that Dramatic encounters of God are rare – even for saints and they are not common place both for the ordinary and extraordinary Christian.

The transfiguration is not there primarily to draw us into a mountain-top experience.

It is not there to tell us we can all have a mountain top experience of God. After all Jesus himself picked only 3 of his disciples – not all of them.

- ❖ The transfiguration is there to reveal to us who Jesus really is.
 - a) On the mountain top, the **divinity of Christ** is revealed to the disciples.
The disciples, heavy with sleep, are woken out of their ignorance, to see the light of Christ.

This made me think of another moment when the same disciples were overpowered by sleep.

This was in the garden of Gethsemane

- b) In the garden of Gethsemane, the humanity of Christ is fully revealed to them.
Again, there, the disciples are woken up by Jesus to see him going to his death – to witness to his humanity

These two incidents taken together and, seeing that the disciples are asleep on both occasions speaks to me of the difficulty of really comprehending who Jesus is.

Today the Liturgy is waking us up to embrace that this man Jesus is divine

In that voice that was heard, there is a lot hidden in it.

"This is my beloved Son, listen to him."

NB: ***"listen to him"*** is important because, like Peter and the other two disciples we are drawn away sleeping in our own opinions.

A few days before this incident Peter objected to Jesus when Jesus revealed to them that he was the Christ who was destined to suffer in Jerusalem, dies and rise again.

Peter did not accept the path of suffering and did all he could to prevent the road to suffering:

On the mountain top the voice from heaven is saying to Peter and to us to listen to him.

- ❖ We are being called to listen to him and not to our ideas and dreams
- ❖ Yes, he is the Christ that must suffer
- ❖ Right from the mountain top he was seen by the disciples talking to Moses and Elijah about his passing in Jerusalem

From now onwards Peter must give up his idea of building tents on the mountain top.

They must go down the mountain and follow Jesus on what will be a hard road of trial and suffering

Faith exclusively based on mountain top experiences alone is not enough.

From the very mountain top Jesus reveals that he saves not just by a transfigured face.

Jesus reveals that he will save by a “**bruised face**” elevated on the cross.

In Lent we are encouraged **not to stop at the transfigured face of Jesus.**

We are being encouraged to follow Jesus down from the mountain unto Jerusalem to follow Jesus.