



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

26, London Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5AX

Father Clive Dytor fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk 07484 158642

holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk

Website <http://holytrinityrc-chippingnorton.com>

Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 16 March 2025 – Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Year C

Dear Parishioners

Last week we saw Jesus in the wilderness being tempted and tested by the Devil. This week we are on a mountain where the Son of God reveals His inner nature to the closest disciples Peter, James and John. Mountains are places in Holy Scripture where the Lord God manifests Himself in some form. With Moses on Mount Sinai, Elijah on Mount Carmel and Horeb, David on Mount Zion...the Mount of Olives is the final refuge for Jesus before His capture and crucifixion, on Mount Calvary.

Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus and the three disciples went up the mountain to pray, no doubt to find some peace and quiet away from the demanding crowds. Then the ordinary becomes the extraordinary as the human Christ is transfigured, transformed to reveal the divinity that is hidden beneath. The whole scene reads like a surreal experience, with dazzling white light disorientating the disciples, and the presence of the two great figures Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. Peter tries to bring some order but is clearly totally overwhelmed by what they are all seeing...and then it is over and "Jesus was found alone."

What do we make of this strange event? One minute the Master and disciples are doing what they must have done so many times, spend time alone to pray and regather themselves after draining pastoral ministry. The next, the whole world is split open and a Reality not seen before is exposed...and then the portal closes and all is back to normal. Why this now? Because they are on their way to Jerusalem and the reality of their lives will become ugly, dark and frightening as the persecutors close in on Jesus, and the Devil who left last week "until an opportune time" makes his presence felt through the hatred and cruelty of those intent on destroying the Son of God before He can complete the Mission. Perhaps this memory of the Glory that lay beneath the surface would sustain them as they watched their Master being scourged and crucified and would give them enough hope to keep waiting for Him to fulfil the promise of the empty tomb.

The Transfiguration is one of the five major milestones in the life of Jesus and at this point in Lent it reminds us that the darkness coming soon in Holy Week is not the final state, and that the awfulness of Good Friday will be followed by the joy of Easter.

God bless everyone Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Masses next week Holy Trinity: 9:15am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Rosary for Peace on Friday

Masses at St Teresa's, 9:15am Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

Our second collection this weekend will be for CAFOD. Envelopes are at the back of Church.

Monday is St Patrick's day. If you are "of Irish heritage" why not come to Mass to celebrate this great Celtic saint!

Wednesday is St Joseph's feast, a Solemnity.

Remember: Stations of the Cross after Mass on a Wednesday at St Teresa's and Thursday at Holy Trinity. This wonderful Catholic devotion is a feature of Lent across the world and I heartily commend it to all. Try to make it a staple of your Lenten experience this year!

The period of Confirmations is over...for the time being! **Our First Communions** are working well and on 22nd June (Corpus Christi) we shall see a bumper crop at Holy Trinity, with the St Teresas group slightly earlier on 4 May.

Holy Trinity Film club: 7 pm Wednesday 19th March. This time it is "Karol" the inspiring film about St John Paul II, the Polish Pope.

In March we pray with Pope Francis Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

At the end of the month our lead Missioner - Fr Royston will be preaching and preparing us for the parishes' Mission:12-18 July. More details to follow.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

