



When Manchester City met Chelsea in the Premiership, some wit on the internet wrote that it was the first time that Jesus and Moses had been seen in the same place together. It was referring to professional footballers Jesús Navas of Manchester City meeting Victor Moses of Chelsea. Actually, that fan was wrong; the first time Moses and Jesus met was in today's Gospel – the Transfiguration.

We have the various accounts of the Transfiguration presented to us on the second Sunday of Lent each year. And we need those peak experiences in the valleys of our lives, but they are not escapism.

Even the site of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor in Galilee was the victim of burglary only last October. The intruders destroyed the tabernacle and desecrated the sacred hosts. So, in a place of that radiant moment, where God's love was shown and spoken to us, humanity manages to bring petty darkness.

The ordinary way

In our individual lives, we have travelled many roads with Jesus, making our ordinary way with whatever sense we have of his company. And then there can come a sudden shining moment of clarity. It is fleeting and cannot last, for if it

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did – how would we know it at all. Ordinary life goes on, just as “ordinary life” engulfs us after extraordinary experiences like a birth, a death, a marriage. Baby blues, bereavement and the grind of living married life can “cover ...with shadow” (Gospel). But we all know that you can’t live at the high points of life, we must move through the valleys also. We simply can’t pitch a tent and stay there, as Peter wanted to do. We go down to

the valleys but with a new inner light for any darkness, a deeper sense of the love that is with us on our way.

Trust and follow Jesus

But we will worry and when we do, we are really getting ahead of ourselves and more disastrously, trying to get ahead of Jesus who alone can see the path ahead and asks that we simply trust and follow Him. It’s never an easy matter, this blind trust that we are asked to practise: the trust that Abram (Abraham) was called to have, to leave the familiar for a new land (First Reading).

“When we walk to the edge of all the light we have and take the step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for us to stand on or we will be taught to fly” (Patrick Overton). ■

– Tom Cox

“I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful ... I see the church as a field hospital after battle.”

– Pope Francis

THIS WEEK (13-19 March)

Mon	13	St Euphrasia
Tue	14	St Leobinus; St Matilde
Wed	15	St Louise de Marillac
Thur	16	St Finnian
Fri	17	ST PATRICK, bishop
Sat	18	St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop
Sun	19	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Readings

TODAY

Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9

NEXT SUNDAY

Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

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MASS TIMES & SERVICES (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9.30am, 1pm & 7pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am. Friday at 7.00pm.

Wednesday: Communion Service discontinued until further notice (Day off)

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass at 7.00pm & Morning of Feast Day 09.30am

Confessions: Before each Mass and By Arrangement. Baptisms: Saturdays at 4pm (3 weeks notice required)



2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 17:1-9

1. The transfiguration experience was one that, for Jesus, clarified his relationship with his Father and strengthened him for the future. It was also a moment of deep revelation for the disciples. What have been the experiences, the moments of insight, which for you have clarified your sense of who you are, and what is your relationship with God?
2. On the mountain the disciples saw Jesus in a new way. His appearance changed. Sometimes in friendship there are moments of sharing in which we get to know a friend in a new and deeper way. Have you had that experience in human friendship, or in your relationship with Jesus and God. Recall when that happened, and what it was like for you.
3. The clear vision of Jesus with Moses and Elijah was followed by a frightening experience of being in a cloud and it was in the midst of the cloud that the disciples were instructed 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him'. Have you had the experience of learning the truth about life and about your relationship with God from moments of confusion as well as from times of special joy?
4. After their special experience the disciples came down the mountain again. We cannot live each day at the level of special spiritual experiences, but the memory of them can strengthen us in difficult times. What memories encourage you in time of trouble?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Patrick Gunn, Sofia Gaberova, Cliff Black, M. Gubbins, John McCann

Anniversaries: Bridget Curran, Fred McGreevy (Sat 11th March at 6:30pm), Susan Gallagher (Sun 12th March at 11:30am), Fr Pat Gallagher (Sun 19th March at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 12th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen
Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Eileen Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 19th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Anthony Clifford
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Margaret Woods

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collection: Monthly Stipend £656.66, Sick & Retired Priests £33, Weekly £28, Shrines £98.33. New Boxes of Envelopes are being prepared before the end of March. If your details have changed, or if you would like to register for a box, please give your details to Fr McCann as soon as possible.

Please consider signing a Gift Aid form so that the parish can claim back the Tax from the HMRC on your contributions. Your own Tax is not affected.

Trocaire Lenten Collection Boxes are available in the porch.

Lent Programme 2017 for the South & East Belfast Pastoral Area. Please find in the porch a group parish timetable of Lenten Programmes available for the parishes in the Pastoral Area.

Fatima comes to Down and Connor. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria! A pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima, blessed by Pope Francis, has been visiting a

number of churches in the Diocese of Down and Connor from Thursday 9th March to Sunday 12th March '17, as part of an all-Ireland pilgrimage in honour of the centenary year of Fatima. To finish the pilgrim statue will visit the following churches at the following times:

Sun 12th - St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast 8.45 a.m. to 12 noon, for both 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. mass followed by procession up the Falls Road to St. Paul's Church, arriving in St Paul's Church for 12.45 p.m. The statue will then leave Down and Connor journeying to the Archdiocese of Dublin.

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima is being brought to Ireland by The Alliance of The Two Hearts and Alliance of The Holy Family International. There will be mass rosary, adoration, consecration of homes and families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Sacred Heart of Jesus and enrolment in the brown scapular for those who wish to do so. All prayer groups and prayer banners welcome. You are also welcome to bring roses to present to Our Lady and a white handkerchief to wave (Fatima tradition) to venues and rose petals to the procession on Sunday. Children are welcome to come dressed as little shepherds. You can follow the pilgrimage to Down and Connor on facebook at fatimacomestodownandconnor. Further information for all venues in Ireland will be posted at www.fatimacomestoireland.com. Please find leaflets in the church porch. Our own Statue will be displayed this weekend.

Masses this week: Because of a Conference, Mass on Monday 13th March will be at 7pm.

St Patrick's Day: Vigil Thurs 16th at 6:30pm. Friday 17th 9:30am & 7pm
Life of St Patrick available in Church Porch.

St. Patrick's Day bi-lingual Mass Join parishioners at St. Oliver Plunkett's church in Lenadoun and start St. Patrick's Day the traditional way - by going to Mass in our native language. Living Church Director, Fr. Alan McGuckian (SJ) will co-celebrate a bi-lingual Mass at 10.00am. It is a great opportunity to celebrate our national Saint and also use however much (or little) of the Irish that we have. Prayers and hymns in Irish will be on a large screen so everyone can join in. Visitors from other parishes are particularly welcome. There will be refreshments served up afterwards in the Parish Hall and a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Tá fáilte roimh gach duine!

'Faith in the public square' Inaugural Conference of The Iona Institute Northern Ireland, Saturday, March 25th, 9.30 am - 1.30 pm, in St Brides Parish hall- Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast. Admission is Free. Keynote Speakers: Archbishop Eamon Martin Archbishop of Armagh & primate of all Ireland Baroness Nuala O'Loan.

Timetable

9.30 Registration tea/coffee
10.15 Welcome - Alban Maginness
10.30 Keynote Address - Archbishop Eamon Martin : 'The importance of speaking out in the public square'
11.00 Questions
11.15 Break
11.30 Baroness Nuala O'Loan :

'The role of faith schools in a pluralist society'
12.00 Questions
12.15 Tracy Harkin :
'Communicating the right to life'
12.45 Questions
13.00 David Quinn : Concluding remarks. To register: Please email info@ionainstitute.ie or phone 00 353 1 661 9204.

Edmund Rice Schools Trust Annual Foundation Lecture, "Challenges and Opportunities for Catholic Tertiary Education in Today's Society," in St Mary's University College, Belfast, Wed 29th March at 7:30pm. Speaker: Professor Peter Finn, President, St Mary's University College. RSVP by 24th March. 028 90333205, or erstni@live.com.

Carmelite Pilgrimage to Lisieux 2017 Thursday 28 September to Monday 2nd November 2017. (4 nights). In Lisieux for the Feast Day Celebrations including the Torchlight Procession of St Therese Relics. Leader: Fr David Weakliam O. Carm. Cost 668 plus insurance 25. All correspondence to St Therese National Office, 56 Aungier Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel (01) 8387281. Email: info@sttherese.com. Flyers in porch.

Parish Safeguarding. Can you please ensure that all Children and Vulnerable Adults are accompanied at all times when entering the Sacristy / Toilet facilities. If you have any queries regarding the Safeguarding Policy please contact a member of the Parish Safeguarding Committee. Many Thanks. Fr Henry PP.