

## Second Sunday of Lent

Each of us has a unique face, and it changes as it communicates what is happening within us. If we have a sadness deep within us, it will show on our face. If we have hope in our hearts, it will show on our face, and as we may all know, our face never lies.

That is the same to the face of Jesus, His face revealed what was in His heart too. His disciples must have noticed when His face changed, when it expressed His happiness or His sadness, His compassion or His anger, His distress or His hope.

It is said in today's Gospel that as Jesus was at Prayer on a mountain, the aspect of his face changed. Something happened deep within Him while He was praying: His face changed and His clothing became brilliant as lighting. We are told that Peter and his two companions saw Jesus' Glory, seeing Him as they never saw Him before.

Jesus in glory speaks to us of our own heavenly destiny as Saint Paul says in the second reading: The Lord Jesus will transfigure our earthly bodies 'into copies of his own glorious body'. That is why our faith is always a hopeful faith.

In prayer, Jesus heard God call His name in love, addressing Him as His beloved Son, and Peter, James and John heard God say to them on the mountain, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One, listen to Him'. This was a very important moment for Jesus as shortly He would be going to His mission to the city of Jerusalem, where He would be crucified. He could now make that difficult journey, in a spirit of hope, in the knowledge that God's love for Him would endure beyond death and would bring him through death into glory.

In prayer, Jesus heard God His Father call His name in love and it transfigured Him. There are also moments in our lives when God will want to speak our name in love to us in a more personal way. These are the times when He calls us up the mountain of prayer and invites us to come into his presence in a more focused way. We all need such prayerful moments in our lives, just as Jesus did.

On the mountain, God said to Peter, James and John, 'Listen to Him', 'Listen to my Son'. It can be good to step aside from our daily activities at times just to be present to Jesus, our risen Lord, and to listen to Him. We don't necessarily have to say anything. It can be just the Prayer of our presence, the Prayer of opening our hearts to the Lord's loving presence to us.

Such Prayer moments when we hear the Lord call our name in love can transform us in some ways. We can find light in times of darkness, hope in times of distress, strength in times of weakness. These moments of Prayer give us little glimpses of our final destiny, when, in the words of the Psalm, 'we will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living'. This will be our final and most wonderful transfiguration moment. Just as Jesus' prayerful moment on the mountain when He was transfigured anticipated His final transfiguration at His resurrection, so our moments of Prayer can also be small foretastes of our own final transfiguration, filling us with hope for the journey ahead. Again, in the words of today's psalm, 'Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord!'