

HOMILY – GOD LIGHTS UP OUR LIVES - 21 FEBRUARY 2016 - LENT 2nd SUNDAY

We hear from the Gospel of Luke about the transfiguration of Jesus today. Yesterday New Zealand cricket captain Brendon McCullum was TRANSFIGURED as he faced only 54 deliveries to score his Test century, a new world record in Test history. Exciting for cricket lovers to see a defining moment in the cricket history. He was dazzling in his cricket talent.

As we ponder how we follow Jesus, we might think of a particularly good day at work we had.

Or hosted an exceptional dinner party.

Or designed or built something amazing.

Or in a very difficult situation, we had just the right response.

We came away from what we did, satisfied, and on a high.

Perhaps we didn't think we could do it.

And whatever we do in future, we have that memory to uplift us.

Is that what Jesus is talking about it?

Well yes and no.

The surprise and wonder comes from God in the transfiguration.

Yet everyone there is uplifted and gifted with a memory forever.

By the time of the transfiguration in Luke chapter 9,
Jesus has already been baptised,
Faced the temptations in the desert,
Announced his mission,
Been rejected in his home town,
Called the apostles to follow him,
Healed several people,
Challenged the Pharisees and scribes,
Preached the Beatitudes and taught in parables,
Grieved for the death of John the Baptist,
Been recognised by Peter as the "Christ of God",
Is training his followers as disciples,
Declared to his disciples that he will suffer, die and on the third day be raised from the dead.

Then comes the Transfiguration, and Jesus continues his mission over the following chapters.

The Transfiguration comes DURING his mission.

During our lives, our daily lives, have we been transfigured by God in any way, in many ways?

Perhaps it has been when God has shone the LIGHT on our SECRETS,
On our inner most THOUGHTS,
On our past DEEDS or what we did NOT DO.

But it is not just a light.

It is a revealing light of wonder,
A light that dazzles because it heals and uplifts and gives us the courage to continue,
a light that recognises that God has already held us and supported us,
a light that reveals the intimate love of God for you and me,
the light of God that LOVES US fully, deeply.

It is this light of God that shines on Jesus and reveals God's love during his mission, his exodus, as today's Gospel states, his journey, his service.

Lit up in love, the VOICE of GOD reveals:

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

Lit up this LENT, on our EASTER journey, we too are called to LOVE, to LISTEN, to ACT.
We too have our mountain experiences during our journey in life.
We too find the courage, strengthened by God, to go back down the mountain and live life as followers and disciples of Jesus along the winding road before us.

Let us pray.

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – Homily – God Lights Up Our Lives – 21 February 2016]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/022116.cfm>]