

Sunday Message

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A • 1 March 2026 • Psalter Week 2

EVERYONE NEEDS GOOD FRIENDS

MATTHEW 17:1-9



Every year the story of the transfiguration is read on the Second Sunday of Lent. Jesus takes three of his friends up a mountain to pray with him.

While there, something extraordinary happens. It's as if Peter, James and John are caught up in a dream and, suddenly, they see Jesus in all his heavenly glory with Moses and Elijah, two of the great Old Testament figures. They see Jesus as he really is – transformed, radiant. Peter is so overcome by what he sees that he wishes it could last for ever. He suggests constructing three tents or temporary dwelling places – one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. But soon the vision ends, and when the three look up, they see 'only Jesus'. The moment has passed but it is one they will never forget.

It is telling that the three disciples Jesus chooses to accompany him to the mountain top are Peter, James and John. Jesus had selected a group of 12 to be his inner circle, as it were. But among that group, it seems these three friends were especially close to him.

Peter, James and John are present with Jesus at some of the most crucial moments of his life. He selects these three to accompany him (along with her parents) when he restores the daughter of Jairus to life. They see with their own eyes that Jesus is the Lord of life, who has authority even over death. These are the three he asks to accompany him to the garden of Gethsemane in his hour of greatest need before his passion and death. And today's Gospel tells us that these are the three who witness his transfiguration, when he is revealed in all his glory.

Jesus wanted Peter, James and John to witness these pivotal moments in his life. They would be able to speak of these events after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. But Jesus probably also turned to them as good friends. He needed their companionship, their support, their presence. He had many followers and acquaintances but he felt the very human need for some closer, more intimate, friendships. Clearly, Peter, James and John had the qualities Jesus was looking for, and so they became his 'right-hand' men, those he regarded as his most trusted associates.

Jesus knew the importance of friendship. In his humanity, he knew that good friendships make life more enjoyable and that good friends help us through the difficult times that will inevitably come our way. ■

LEARN

The reason the transfiguration takes place at this time in Matthew's Gospel is to give the disciples a boost. Jesus knows there will be tough times ahead. He knows what will happen to him in Jerusalem and that life will be difficult for his followers. The transfiguration is a little glimpse of heaven. It shows them who Jesus really is, and gives them a foretaste of what awaits them if they remain faithful to their Master.

PRAY

Pray for your friends. Thank God for the gift of true friendship.

SAY

"Lord, help me to live in such a way as to enjoy your company in heaven for ever. Amen."

DO

On the mountaintop, the three disciples saw Jesus in his radiant glory. Try to see the God-given beauty in all you meet.

REFLECT

One of the most wonderful opportunities created by the internet is how it allows people to communicate instantly practically anywhere. It is possible to go online and chat with people thousands of miles away. It was a great help to people forced to practise social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic.

But social media and the world wide web have significant downsides, as we now know only too well. We live in the era of fake news and of deepfake technology. You can create a deepfake video or image of a person in which their face or body has been digitally altered so that they appear to be someone else, typically used maliciously or to spread false information. Artificial Intelligence is making this technology ever more sophisticated and difficult to detect.

It means we can't always be sure whether a news item or story is true or false. And we won't always know for sure whether a stranger we are chatting to online is who they claim to be. Just as in everyday life we can wear a mask so that others won't know what we're really thinking, or to protect ourselves from being hurt, so also people can create false digital profiles or personas in order to make themselves more appealing or conceal their true intentions. For whatever reason, they do not want to reveal their real selves, their true face.

In the story of the transfiguration Jesus revealed his true face to his three closest friends. They saw him as he really is in his heavenly glory. The literal meaning of "transfiguration" is to show one's true face. And that's what happened on the mountain top – Peter, James and John saw Jesus' radiant, glorified face. They saw him as he really is – and it took their breath away. They wanted the moment to last for ever.

Today's Gospel challenges us to be honest in our relationship with God and others. God loves us as we are and knows us better than we know ourselves. We need not be afraid to show him our true face. Good friendships depend on the willingness to show our true face, be our true self. That's how we build friendships that last. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.*

Or

*Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.*

COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In those days: The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the LORD told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33(32):4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. R. 22

*R: May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

1. The word of the LORD is upright, and all his works to be trusted. The LORD loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth. **R.**
2. Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**
3. Our soul is waiting for the LORD. He is our help and our shield. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD. **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved: We share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 17:5

R: Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:

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

R: Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

GOSPEL Matthew 17:9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and have no fear.' And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, 'Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



St Patrick's Church
King Street
Wellington
TF1 3AP

THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco
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Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michał Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmew.org
Safeguarding: Moira Shrimpton M: 07540 723614

Our Lady of the Rosary
& St Luke's Church
Church Road, Trench
TF2 7HG

Parish Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423

Sat	28th	17:30	Parishioners	Wrekin College Chapel
Sun	1st	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Mary's, Madeley
2nd Sunday of LENT		09:00	Delia Mulinder (Intentions)	Our Lady's
		11:00	William & Linda & Families	Wrekin College Chapel
		15:00	Stations of the Cross	Our Lady's
	Mon	2nd	Ferial	
Tues	3rd	Ferial		
		12:00	Alan and Wayne Stansfield / Maureen Reynolds B'day	St Patrick's
Wed	4th	Ferial		
		10:00	St Luke's School Mass – Parishioners Welcome	Our Lady's
Thurs	5th	Ferial		
		19:00	Emily Sajin	St Patrick's
Fri	6th	Ferial		
		09:30	Nicky Biddulph (B'day Int.)	St Patrick's
Sat	7th	17:30	Dooney Family (Intentions)	St Patrick's
Sun	8th	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
3rd Sunday of LENT		09:00	Edith Bayley (Health)	Our Lady's
		11:00	John Adams (Anniversary)	St Patrick's
		15:00	Stations of the Cross	Our Lady's

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

RIP: Mary (Mollie) Davie - Requiem Mass at St Patricks on 27th March at 9:45pm; Aurora Sandra Rossell, Francesca Amaka Amadi.

We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

BAPTISMS:

Forms are available from the porch. Please hand your form to Fr Ravi.

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1528.92 - Standing Orders £705.87 (£542 Gift Aided), Envelopes £341.10
Loose Plate £441.95 (Not Gift Aided). Dona - £40. We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

Bank details:

SRC DT 234025
St Patrick Wellington
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54546760

SRC DT -234025
Our Lady & St Luke Telford
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54582160



Please scan this QR code to donate to your parish online. You can register your card for gift aid to be added to every donation

ROTAS (W, EM, C)

Sat 5.30: Geraldine & Stephen, Gail, Maggie & Gail **Next week:** Denzil & Joanne, Anne D, Nigel & Bernadette

Sun 9: Vanessa & Tony, Catherine K, C & C & Felicity **Next week:** Phillip & Bobbie, John, Bruce & Mick

Sun 11: Jennifer & Paul, Anna, Ann & Jane **Next week:** Evangeline & Shreya, Jane, Diane & Collette

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Sunday in Lent at 3pm the Stations of the Cross will take place at the following Church.

Our Lady's – 1st March | 8th March **St Patrick's** – 15th March | 22nd March | 29th March

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

Livestreams will not be available during the refurbishment of St Patrick's

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity (No.234025)

LENT 2026

RECONCILIATION SERVICE with Fr Chris Walsh:
Wednesday, 25th March 2026, 7pm at Our Lady's

CHRISM MASS: Wednesday, 1 April, 12 noon at
Shrewsbury Cathedral (Two from our parish will be
chosen to attend)

SACRED TRIDUUM: The following celebrations will be
led by Fr John Rafferty at St Patricks & Fr Ravi at Our
Lady's:

Maundy Thursday – 2nd April:

7pm at St Patrick's, Watching until 10pm

7.30pm at Our Lady's, Watching until 9.30pm

Good Friday – 3rd April:

3pm at both churches

Holy Saturday – 4th April:

10am for RCIA candidates, Sponsors, Catechists

Easter Vigil – 4th April:

7pm at Our Lady's

7.30pm at St Patrick's

Easter Sunday masses as usual

120 YEARS OF ST PATRICK'S (1906 – 2026)

Tuesday 17th March at 7pm a special Reunion Mass for
all those who have attended St Patrick's Primary School
and BRJ. There will be refreshments afterwards in the
meeting room.

Saturday 21st March 5:30pm, Mass, presided over by Fr
John Rafferty, will be dedicated to our deceased
parishioners and priests who have served the parish.
There will be refreshments afterwards in the meeting
room.

Sunday 22nd March 11am Mass of Thanksgiving
presided over by Rt Rev Mark Davies. There will be
refreshments afterwards in the meeting room.

**SACRAMENTS OF FORGIVENESS AND HOLY
COMMUNION:** We have 72 children preparing for these
special moments of grace.

First Forgiveness – Monday 9th March – 3.30pm at Our
Lady's, 5.30pm at St Patrick's, Friday 13th March 9.30am
at St Patrick's.

Holy Communion – Saturday, 2nd May, 10am at Our
Lady's; Saturday 9th May, 10am and 12 noon at St
Patrick's.

RCIA: We are blessed with six candidates - Chloe, Jade,
Alex, Daniel, Mike and Richard - who have begun their
journey of faith in our community. They celebrated the
Rite of Election with Bishop Mark on the First Sunday of
Lent. They will be given a copy of the Apostles Creed on
the Third Sunday of Lent and the Lord's Prayer on the Fifth
Sunday of Lent. Along with their sponsors, they will have
their feet washed on Maundy Thursday and are invited to
a time of prayer on Holy Saturday morning. They will
receive the Sacraments of initiation - Baptism
(Reception), Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter
Vigil. Please keep them in your prayers.

HELP AT ST PATRICKS: From 10am on Friday 6th March,
can you help clean and prepare St Patrick's for the
Weekend Masses.

LOURDES ROADSHOWS: The Diocesan Lourdes
Pilgrimage Management Committee invites you to drop in
to our roadshow to learn more about joining our annual
diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2026, as we celebrate
our 75th annual. **Saturday 07/03/26** - Saint Patrick's,
Wellington, Telford, TF1 3AP - 12.30pm - 2pm

FAMILY FAST DAY: This Lent, CAFOD's Family Fast Day was
on Friday 27th February. We are invited to respond through
prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the needs of families
facing floods and drought in places such as South Sudan,
Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Through support for CAFOD's
Lent Appeal, parishes and schools can help families grow
food and care for their communities in the face of the
devastating impacts of climate change. Further information
at www.cafod.org.uk/parish

AFTERNOON TEA: Friday 20th March, 2PM at OLOR. Only
30 places available, book now with Gay Kendrick or ,
Pauline Heffernan (paulineheffernan@gmail.com) or add
your details to the sign up sheet at OLOR. Donations will be
appreciated as usual *Booking closes on Sunday 15th March*

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: Every Thursday after 7pm mass at
St Patrick's, in the meeting room, there is a bible study
group. All Welcome

EVENTS MEETING AT OLOR: Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm: all
welcome. If you can't attend in person but would like to
keep updated of discussions, please contact Pauline
Heffernan on paulinehefferan60@gmail.com: meetings
notes are distributed via email.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: *Friday 6th March*, 11am at
Wombridge Church, Wombridge Road, TF2 6HT. Based on
resources produced by Nigerian women. All are welcome.

MARY'S MEALS: Mary's Meals provides life-changing
school meals to children living in some of the world's
poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings
hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an
education and better opportunities for the future. Every
single day, Mary's Meals serves a nutritious school meal to
over 3 million children, giving them the energy to learn and
a hope for the future. It costs just £19.15 to serve a meal to
a child for a whole school year. Mary's Meals is named after
Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in
poverty. Mary's Meals grew out of the Christian Catholic
faith of our founder, and the values and ethos we hold
reflect this. A volunteer from Mary's Meals will speak to us
before all masses on the weekend of 14-15 March.

SUMMER PARISH LUNCH – Save the Date
Sunday 7th June 2026, 1:30-3:30pm Menu to Follow

LENT COURSE: Faith Working Through Love
due to run from Monday 2nd March at Wrockwardine Wood
Church, has been CANCELLED