

# The Living Word

Second Sunday of Lent, Year A

5 March 2023

## First Reading Gn 12:1-4

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22**

*(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.*

1. The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. *(R.)*
2. The Lord looks on those who  
revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. *(R.)*
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. *(R.)*

## Second Reading 2 Tm 1:8-10

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:**

**this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## Gospel Mt 17:1-9

*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

We have to get rid of the idea that the soul is a dot of energy in some hidden core of our body. In fact, the body is in the soul. There is no part of my body which is not immersed in my soul. It is my whole person, bodysoul, which needs to be saved. As Thomas Aquinas says: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.'

Today's Gospel does not portray an out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Further, this transfiguration was not a solitary experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it precisely because it told them what our Heavenly Father desired as their destiny beyond martyrdom, if only they would listen to Jesus.

Heavenly salvation will involve my whole person, bodysoul, being transformed. But could a person, during their earthly existence, share in the transfiguration experience of Christ?

We could pause for a moment to 'Google' or otherwise get hold of my favourite story of a saint – St Seraphim of Sarov – and pray that we may share with his disciple the bodily experience of 'immeasurable wellbeing' – 'infinite joy in our hearts'.

mtate@bigpond.com

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**S**s Perpetua and Felicity were martyrs of Roman Carthage, c 204. Perpetua, a young married woman with a newly born son, was arrested for refusing to offer sacrifice to the Emperor. Also arrested was a slave-girl called Felicity, who was advanced in pregnancy and gave birth to a girl while in prison. Perpetua and Felicity and several men were all found guilty of treason and were taken to the arena to be killed by wild beasts. According to tradition, Perpetua and Felicity showed great bravery and faith and survived their encounter with a mad heifer, but at the request of the jeering crowd were eventually put to the sword.

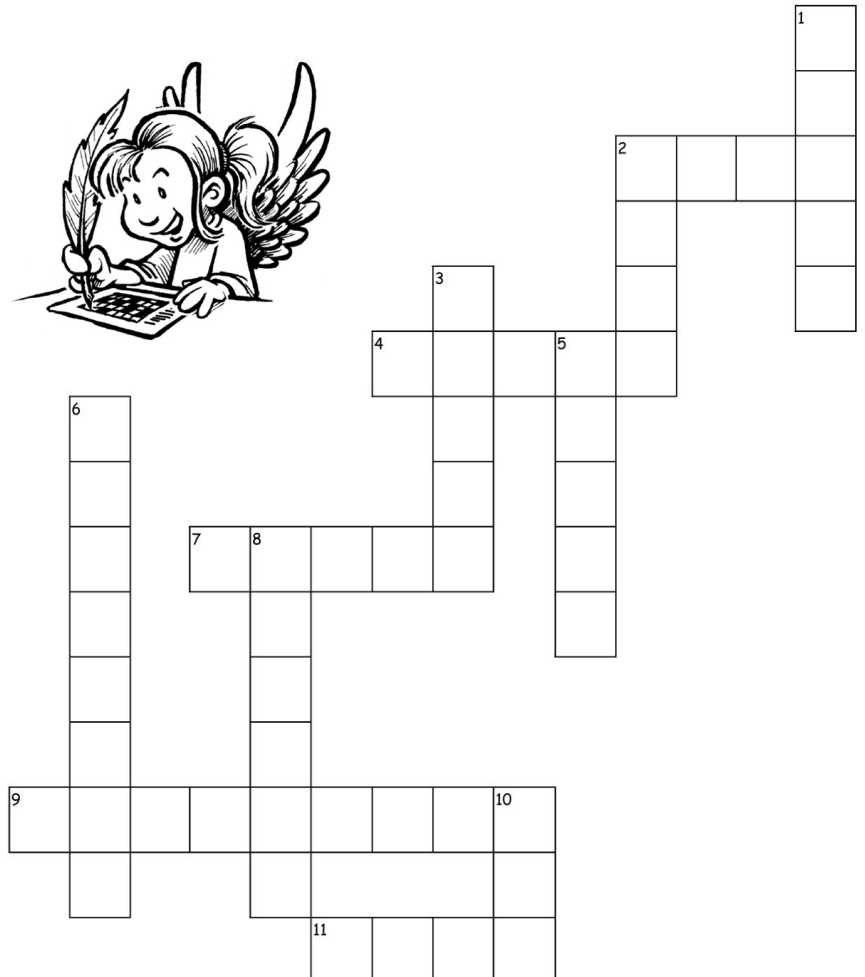
# Crossword

## Across

- 2: level, even
- 4: hearing someone speak is to listen to their...
- 7: the brother of John
- 9: followers of Jesus
- 11: he was with his brother and Peter

## Down

- 1: the disciple who was also known as Simon
- 2: the front of your head
- 3: he appeared along side Jesus and Elijah
- 5: the disciples heard God's voice coming from where?
- 6: the disciples witnessed the transfiguration at the top of a ...
- 8: scared
- 10: the brightest light in the sky



By using the words below, can you work out what the voice from the cloud said to the apostles?

**SON AM LISTEN TO SAYS  
BELOVED HIM IS PLEASED**

