

# SUNDAY *Plus*

2nd Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week II** Year A

## Transformed by God



I was surprised that I found myself beginning to pray daily. I could not get down on my knees, but I could pray while I was walking. If I got down on my knees, I thought, "Do I really believe? To whom am I praying?" A terrible doubt came over me, and a sense of shame, and I wondered if I was praying because I was lonely, because I was unhappy.

But when I walked to the village for the mail, I found myself praying again holding in my pocket the rosary that Mary Gordon gave me in New Orleans some years before. Maybe I did not say it correctly but I kept on saying it because it made me happy...

I reasoned with myself, "I am praying because I am happy, not because I

am unhappy. I did not turn to God in unhappiness, in grief, in despair – to get consolation, to get something from him."

And encouraged that I was praying because I wanted to thank him, I went on praying. No matter how dull the day, how long the walk seemed, if I felt sluggish at the beginning of the walk, the words I had been saying insinuated themselves into my heart before I had finished, so that on the trip back I neither prayed nor thought but was filled with exultation...

It is so hard to say how this delight in prayer grew on me... I began to go to Mass regularly on Sunday mornings.

Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*

Today, and every day, let us ask the Lord to open our hearts to his saving word and its power to transform and enrich our lives and the world in which we live.


Pope Leo XIV

### In God's love

Today's Gospel passage tells us that Jesus did not face the knowledge of his forthcoming violent death alone. That lonely knowledge could paralyse anyone. The story of the transfiguration tells us that Jesus is enabled to make that journey to Jerusalem in the declared love of the Father. The direction which Jesus has to follow will cost him his life.

In our own journeys we can face difficult decisions more surely in the knowledge that we are loved and supported. When we hear our name called in love we can face our road to Jerusalem. The power of that love funds us to face the future, just as its absence makes the future a loveless landscape. It is that love that we celebrate; it helps us to travel hopefully; it enables us to keep on striving until we can rest at last in the love that knows our name best.

Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R., *Praying the Rosary*

Jesus, Lord of my life, I can ask for nothing more than to see and believe that my life lies in you, in the kingdom of my Lord.  Amen.

Dan Schutte



Feast of the week  
Sunday 1 March

St David of Wales  
(500-589)

The birth of St David's is the stuff of legends! To summarise: it was apparently foretold to St Patrick (born nearby) a century before David was born on a Pembrokeshire cliff, during a storm, to a mother (Non) who later became a nun and eventually canonised herself. Both David's parents were descended from Welsh royalty and some of his supporters also claim that he was King Arthur's nephew.

What is certain is that, as an adult, David became a monk and eventually Archbishop of Wales, founding twelve monasteries, including Menevia (St David's) and Glastonbury. The communities led prayerful, hospitable, very austere lives, for instance pulling the plough themselves rather than using animals.

David's last words were: "Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me."

In 1120, Pope Callistus II canonised David who, shortly afterwards, was declared the patron saint of Wales.

### READINGS

Today:  
Genesis 12:1-4  
2 Timothy 1:8-10  
Matthew 17:1-9

Monday:  
Daniel 9:4-10  
Luke 6:36-38  
E&W: St David  
(Solemnity in Wales;  
Feast in England):  
Philippians 3:8-14  
Matthew 5:13-16

Tuesday:  
Isaiah 1:10, 16-20  
Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday:  
Jeremiah 18:18-20  
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday:  
Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Luke 16:19-31

Friday:  
Genesis 37:3-4,  
12-13, 17-28  
Matthew 21:33-43,  
45-46

Saturday:  
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday:  
Exodus 17:3-7  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42