



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg

Second Sunday of Lent [Year A] (8th March, 2020)

Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474



Thought for the Week: "Let us listen once more to Jesus, with all the love and respect that the Master deserves. Let us allow his words to unsettle us, to challenge us and to demand a real change in the way we live. Otherwise, holiness will remain no more than an empty word." *Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Call to Holiness (section 66)*

Liturgy Schedule for the Second Week of Lent [Year A] (8th March – 15th March)

Saturday 7th March	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 8th March	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Second Sunday of Lent [Year A]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass
Monday 9th March	St. Patrick's	6.30am Mass
		10.00am Mass
Tuesday 10th March	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 11th March	St. Patrick's	12 noon – 7.15pm Adoration
		7.30pm Mass followed by Padre Pio Devotions
Thursday 12th March	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 13th March	St. Patrick's	6.30am Mass
		10.00am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
Saturday 14th March	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Philomena Feeney (5 th Ann.)
Sunday 15th March	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Third Sunday of Lent [Year A]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass

COLLECTIONS **23rd February:** £1,675 [this is a correction] **1st March:** £1,185

Remembering our Dead: During these Lenten days we pray for all our deceased relatives and friends, and all the souls in Purgatory.

Monthly Devotions Through the Intercession of St. Pio of Pietrelcina:
Wednesday 11th March after 7.30pm mass in St. Patrick's Church.

Novena to St. Patrick: Sunday 8th to Sunday 16th March. Visit padraignaofa.ie to download a copy of Novena Prayer and other resources, including a Novena for children, in honour of St. Patrick.

Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends
Saturday 25th April at 3.00pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry.
If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Communion at this Mass please call the Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email ddcc@derrydiocese.org

Mass in Irish will be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh on Sunday 15 March at 4 pm. All welcome. Anyone interested in taking part in the Mass as a musician or singer is invited to attend a practice in the Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 3 March at 8.30 pm.
Ceiliúrfar **Aifreann i nGaeilge** in Eaglais An Chroí Rónaofa, An Ómaigh Dé Domhnaigh 15 Márta ar 4:00 i.n. Fáilte roimh dhuine ar bith a bhfuil suim aige bheith páirteach san Aifreann mar cheoltóir nó mar amhránaí teacht chuig cleachtadh a bheas ar siúl in Eaglais an Chroí Rónaofa Dé Máirt 3 Márta ar 8.30 i.n.

Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Tuesday 1st to Tuesday 8th September. £579.
Includes half-board, tax and insurance). Call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or Whatsapp 07768 395 038 for more info

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (led by Bishop Donal McKeown):
Thursday 2nd July to Tuesday 7th July. For enquiries / book call (028) 7126 0293 / email derry pilgrim@outlook.com
Doctors and nurses are invited to consider taking part to assist those in need. *Contact Lourdes Office for details*

Next Week's Readings: Exodus 17:3-7 • Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9, R/ v 8 • Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42 • Lectionary 1:245 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 7 th March The Family of Emma Conway	Second Sunday of Lent	Sunday 8 th March The Family of Francis McNamee
Saturday 14 th March* The Family of Caoimhe Coyle	Third Sunday of Lent	Sunday 15 th March The Family of Shane Molloy
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented *Do This in Memory (week 7) We need new volunteers in every aspect of life		

Trócaire Fundraiser – Easter Basket: This will be raffled in aid of this year's Trócaire Lent Appeal. The basket can be seen in O'Neill's Centra, Greencastle in the near future. Further details in the shop and future parish bulletins.
It is also proposed to hold a fundraising tea afternoon in early April also in aid of Trócaire

Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Language Conversation Circle:
Every Thursday from 10.30am to 11.30am. Walking group continues every Monday from 11.00am to 12 noon (meet in Pomeroy forest car park).
Email saconlon15@hotmail.co.uk or call (028) 8775 7800 / 07709 714 100

SMA Retreat and Conference Centre, Dromantine – Lenten Days of Recollection:	
Lord, open my heart as wide as it can open	Saturday 14 th March, 9.30am to 5.00pm (£25 including lunch) <i>Led by Fr. Damian Bresnahan SMA</i>
Remember – you're worth it!	Saturday 28 th March, 9.30am to 5.00pm (£25 including lunch) <i>Led by Fr. John Gallagher SMA</i>
Holy Week Retreat	Wednesday 8 th to Sunday 12 th April (Easter Sunday) to celebrate the Easter Triduum, beginning with the Seder Meal. £260 / €290

Foster Carers – Urgently Required in the WHSCT Area: To meet the unfortunate demand for foster placements. If you think you can help, please call 0800 0720 137

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham
Masters in Catholic School Leadership
A post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. A great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to or have an interest in leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn.
For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2020: Thursday 2nd to Tuesday 7th July.
Applications are now being sought for the 2020 Youth Pilgrimage, from those who will be age 17 at time of travel. Forms can be requested through schools or directly from the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ (email derry pilgrim@outlook.com).
Gift Vouchers for all pilgrims to the value of £25 and £50 can be ordered via these same contact details

Greencastle Community Association – Card Playing: Every Sunday at 7.00pm.

An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Card Playing: Every Friday night at 8.00pm. *Refreshments served*

Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Monthly Seisiún: Saturday 21st March at 8.30pm for juniors and 9.30pm onwards for seniors in Leo's Lounge, Plumbridge. Admission free.
For more info call Tom on (028) 816 48719

Lent 2020 in the parishes of the Diocese of Derry
Throughout Lent resources and parish events for Lent will be published on the diocesan website and its social media channels. You are encouraged to follow and share these resources:
Web: derrydiocese.org **Instagram:** @DioceseOfDerry **Twitter:** @DioceseOfDerry **Facebook:** @derrydiocese.
You are also asked to recite daily during Lent the following Diocesan Lenten Prayer
Loving Father, to prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. *Amen*

<p>Pope Francis' Intention for March (please remember this in your personal prayers) Catholics in China: We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.</p>
<p>SMA Retreat Centre, Dromantine – Lenten Retreat Days: Saturday 14th March (led by Fr. Damian Bresnahan) and Saturday 28th March (led by Fr. John Gallagher). These Days of Reflection offer opportunities to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. 9.30am to 5.00pm. Cost £25, including lunch. <i>To book call (028) 3082 1964 or email sma.dromantine@sma.ie</i></p>
<p>Drink Wise, Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use? <i>For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240</i></p>
<p>Accord Counselling Services: Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. <i>To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com</i></p>
<p>Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers: To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland. <i>If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info</i></p>
<p>Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour: Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers. <i>Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com</i></p>
<p>ASPIRE Employability Programme – Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week. Omagh Office: (028) 8224 6535 • Enniskillen Office: (028) 6632 6478 • Facebook: Aspire Employability Programme <i>The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy</i></p>
<p>Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October): 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing. any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. <i>Call us on 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com for further info and book dates that suit</i></p>
<p>MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas): Find out if you're missing out on benefits, services or grants by booking your FREE home visit. Referrals can be made for benefits checks, home safety visits, occupational therapy assessments as well as others. You'll also receive a FREE bag containing £25 worth of items to help keep you warm this winter. <i>Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book</i></p>
<p>Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI): Prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies <i>Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply) • Join our faith family!</i></p>
<p>Accord Counselling Services: Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination. <i>If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com</i></p>
<p>Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure: If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry. <i>If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting derryyouthcommunity.com or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org</i></p>
<p>Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues: All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness <i>For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com</i></p>

Parish Liturgy for March, 2020	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Patricia Reusche	Sean Teague
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of Intercession	Sorcha Hughes	Miceal McCann	Caoileann Maguire
Collectors	Daniel McCrory Raymond Bradley	Frank Keenan Eugene Tracey	Brian Gillen Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Mary Conway	Mary Meenan	Anne Mc Dermott and Martina Daly
<p>Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages: April – October. 7 night stay and airport shuttle service from Dubrovnik or split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for more info and book the dates that suit you. <i>0144 345 10 • reservations@med-irishcentre.com</i></p>			
<p>Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration 12noon – 1.00pm Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life 1.00pm – 2.00pm Married couples and those preparing for Marriage 2.00pm – 3.00pm Sick and the Housebound • 3.00pm – 4.00pm Strengthening of Faith in our young people 4.00pm – 5.00pm Parish Unity • 5.00pm – 6.00pm Protecting life and the Earth 6.00pm – 7.00pm The Holy Souls and the Bereave</p>			
<p>String Instrument Music Lessons: Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent Beginners: 6.00pm to 6.45pm • Advanced: 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place</p>			
<p>Rural Support: We could help you with financial stress by Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action Email: info@ruralsupport.org.uk Website: ruralsupport.org.uk To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606</p>			
<p>Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment. "...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". <i>Pope St. John Paul II</i></p>			
<p>Towards Peace: A spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to 9 sessions are offered and they are free. Website: towardspeace.ie • Tel: 01 505 3028 • Email: towardspeace@jecon.ie</p>			
<p>The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility: This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre. <i>Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk</i></p>			
<p>Thornhill Ministries, Derry – Holy Land Pilgrimage Retreat (applications now available): Thursday 24th September to Thursday 8th October. Tel: (028) 7135 1233 • Email: thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org • Website: thornhillministries.co.uk</p>			

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Epilepsy Action NI: Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury? Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

Mid Ulster Agewell: Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.
For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration
12noon – 1.00pm Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life
1.00pm – 2.00pm Married couples and those preparing for Marriage
2.00pm – 3.00pm Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people
4.00pm – 5.00pm Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth
6.00pm – 7.00pm The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

Red Cross: Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.
Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011

The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration
It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.
"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". *Pope St. John Paul II*

Armchair Exercises: Continues every Monday night in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. *Suitable for all ages*

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	First Communion	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	Weddings	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	Deaths and Burials	11

Some Important Dates		
Thursday 6th February at 7.30pm Service of Light for P7 Confirmation children		
Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm First Confession for P4 Children	Sunday 12th April Easter Sunday	Sunday 26th April at 2.00pm Confirmation
Saturday 6th June at 12noon First Holy Communion	Saturday 4th / Sunday 5th July Cemetery Prayers in Greencastle / Broughderg	Monday 2nd November All Souls Day Mass for Faithful Departed

Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children – Use of Photography and Video:
The use of photography and video is an issue of great concern among those working with children. The Diocese recognises that every parish has their own arrangements in relation to its use in schools, youth groups and for the sacraments however the guidelines have been devised below to aid parishes and diocesan groups:

- It is always good practice to seek *written* permission from a parent or guardian before taking any photographs or video footage of children. This written permission must be sought from the parent/guardian or the person who owns the photograph before it can be displayed on promotional materials or websites. This can be incorporated in the registration form when a child joins a group (template permission Resource 10);
- Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;
- Special consideration should be given where taking photographs or video footage might be misinterpreted, or the images could be seen as provocative (e.g. beach trip or gymnastics display etc.). It is not to say, however, that with the right planning, these events cannot be recorded and enjoyed.

Photography and video recording are important methods of recording social activity and providing an historic record – illustrating and validating important moments in people's lives. This process is a powerful and personal one, and therefore we must respect the rights of all to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.
*From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

Child Safeguarding: If you or anyone you know has a concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI / local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively, if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities. *See poster at entrance*

Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm: If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.
Address: IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal
Tel: (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • **Website:** celticprayergarden.com • **Facebook:** IOSASCentre • **Twitter:** IOSASCentre

Kindercare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:
Tel: (028) 90941690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

Deanery of Tyrone Statistics
17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.
8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000
6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people
3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people
The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics
7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?
In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.
The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.
Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s
The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

Family Care Adoption Services *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*
For free info contact us **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)
Email: anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

ACCORD – Relationship Counseling: A service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriages and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non-judgmental setting.

An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com

In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II – 10 Night Pilgrimage to Poland: Tuesday 21st April to Friday 1st May. Follow in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, visit the capital of Divine Mercy, venerate the messenger of Mercy, St. Faustina's relics, see the cell that imprisoned St. Maximilian Kolbe (martyr) as well as visit the largest Marian shrines and sanctuaries in Poland – daily Mass and spiritual activities. Flights from Belfast, luxury coach travel and excellent accommodation.

For more info, a detailed itinerary and price email Fr. Micheál McGavigan at michealmcgavigan@icloud.com

Alcoholics Anonymous: Can't stop? There is a solution.

Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email csoofaa@btinternet.com. alcoholicsanonymous.ie.

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:

John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)

1. The transfiguration experience was one that, for Jesus, clarified his relationship with his Father and strengthened him for the future. It was also a moment of deep revelation for the disciples. What have been the experiences, the moments of insight, which for you have clarified your sense of who you are, and what is your relationship with God?
2. On the mountain the disciples saw Jesus in a new way. His appearance changed. Sometimes in friendship there are moments of sharing in which we get to know a friend in a new and deeper way. Have you had that experience in human friendship, or in your relationship with God? Recall when that happened, and what it was like for you.
3. The clear vision of Jesus with Moses and Elijah was followed by a frightening experience of being in a cloud and it was in the midst of the cloud that the disciples were instructed: 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him.' Have you had the experience of learning the truth about life and about your relationship with God from moments of confusion as well as from times of joy?
4. After their special experience, the disciples came down the mountain again. We cannot live each day at the level of special spiritual experiences, but the memory of them can strengthen us in difficult times. What memories encourage you in time of trouble?

The Deep End – 'Listen to him':

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

On this second Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of the Transfiguration. It is an account of a significant spiritual experience for the disciples. We can recall in our own lives times when we received a new spiritual insight, moments when we came to know Jesus in a more profound way. These moments change us, they are powerful and can sustain us in difficult times.

During Lent we are invited into a new way of seeing. As our world faces enormous environmental challenges, faith communities have a huge role to play in protecting God's creation for generations to come. The roots of the environmental crisis are deeply spiritual, for we have become disconnected from nature and forgotten how deeply interconnected everything is. This calls for a deep conversion, a reconnection; to be filled again with a childlike sense of awe and wonder where our relationship with the natural world is concerned. This Lent, let us spend more time in nature, being aware of God's presence in every created thing. Let us stand awestruck before the beauty of the world.

The entire material universe speaks of God's love ... Soil, water, mountains: everything is a caress of God ... From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine. Alongside revelation in sacred Scripture, there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night.

Laudato Si (84-85)