

Towards Plenary Council 2020-2021
Second Sunday of Lent 2019

... listen to him





SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

From the Readings

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-6. 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.' 'Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord ...

Psalms 26/27:1-2,13-14. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? ...
I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:20. For us our homeland is in heaven ...

Gospel: Luke 9:28-35. Now about eight days after this had been said, he took with him Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray ... a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him!'

Reflections

If we truly intend to walk among contemporary challenges ... maintain a fixed gaze on Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis, during the Meeting on the Family, Rome, 4 Oct 2014

Remember that you are never alone. Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives! He has called you and chosen you to live in the freedom of the children of God. Turn to him in prayer and in love. Ask him to grant you the courage and strength to live in this freedom always. Walk with him who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life"!

Pope John Paul II, Address at 12th World Youth Day, 1997

Transformation is something we all crave. This is what we are looking for under the guises of the many things we do. We seek fulfillment through security, pleasure, power, personal relationships, artistic creativity, intellectual insight, and mystical experiences ...

Beatrice Bruteau-*The Easter Mysteries*



THE TRANSFIGURATION 1516-1520 - RAPHAEL

For Thinking and Talking

1. **From these readings and reflections**, what words, phrases and insights stand out for you?
2. **Imagine** what transformation could look or feel like for you or your community with gaze and listening ear focused on Jesus.
3. **Remember** an experience that transformed you or another person. What did transformation mean for the life that followed?
4. **Express** a hope or intention for the future.

Prayer

God of Community,

enlarge our community, gathering in those people and concerns we see lying on the edges of our life. As we look at our world fraught with wars, sometimes religious wars, we know that we need the same power that people of old saw in Jesus Christ.

Send to us this power for peace and healing, O God.

Send us Christ's power for seeing the truth in each situation, for pointing to the forces which destroy and to those activities which bring people together again.

Send to us this power for peace and healing, O God.

Remind us of the costly journey towards your reign so that we will not be satisfied with casual solutions and go on searching for quick and easy ways.

Send to us this power for peace and healing, O God.

Give to us, too, a sense of your loving kindness towards us, a faith in your permission to rest and draw apart so that we may be made new and see things more clearly in the quiet of your company.

Send to us this power for peace and healing, for gathering in community, O God, for you are our only hope, you are the one who never sees us as strangers, for you have met us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

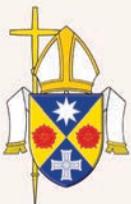
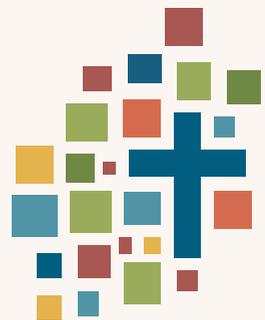
Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *In This Hour: Liturgies for Pausing*, 101-102

For Plenary Council 2020-2021

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.
O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia.
Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

(From the Plenary Council 2020 Prayer)



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

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Acknowledgements: Pope Francis, during the Meeting on the Family, Rome, 4 Oct 2014; Pope John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli), *Journal of a Soul*, 1954; Pope John Paul II, Address at 12th World Youth Day, 1997; Beatrice Bruteau-*The Easter Mysteries*; Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *In This Hour: Liturgies for Pausing*, Thornbury:Desbooks, 2001.