

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 2024

Theme: YOU ARE GOD'S BELOVED....

Scripture:

... Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved son, listen to Him". (Mk 9:7)

Reflection:

The gospel reading of today invites us to ponder on the Transfiguration of Jesus. This extraordinary event gives the disciples a glimpse of the future which lies beyond suffering and death. Recall the baptism scene of Jesus, he hears the voice of the Father, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Matt 3: 17) and then he begins his public ministry. Jesus experiences something similar at the Transfiguration and before he begins his final journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Mark highlights this journey even though Jesus foresees the arrest, trial, crucifixion and death. But the voice of the Father "This is my Son, the beloved, listen to him" approves him as the Son and he goes courageously to begin his journey to the place of martyrdom.



We invite you to read again these words and let it echo in your heart: You are my beloved.... I have loved you... I have carved you on the palm of my hand... You are precious to me. 'I am the beloved one even before I was born'.

All that we do is nourished by the knowledge of this unconditional love. We will go through difficulties and failures but the faith in Him that makes us cling on to that love is because He loved us first (1 Jn 4: 19). If we can love others as God loves us, to give others the depth of our belovedness, then we can walk free and love everyone. If we keep listening to that voice we can share our belovedness with others.

Lent is a time of going deep into ourselves. What is it that stands between you and God in experiencing being the beloved of God?

Beloved is where we begin...

Beloved

Is there any other word needs saying, any other blessing could compare with this name, this knowing?

Beloved

Comes like a mercy to the ear that has never heard it. Comes like river to the body that has never seen such grace.

Beloved

Comes holy to the heart aching to be new. Comes healing to the soul wanting to begin again.

Beloved

Keep saying it and though it may sound strange at first, watch how it becomes part of you, how it becomes you, as if you never could have known yourself anything else, as if you could ever have been other than this: *Beloved* -Jan Richardson

