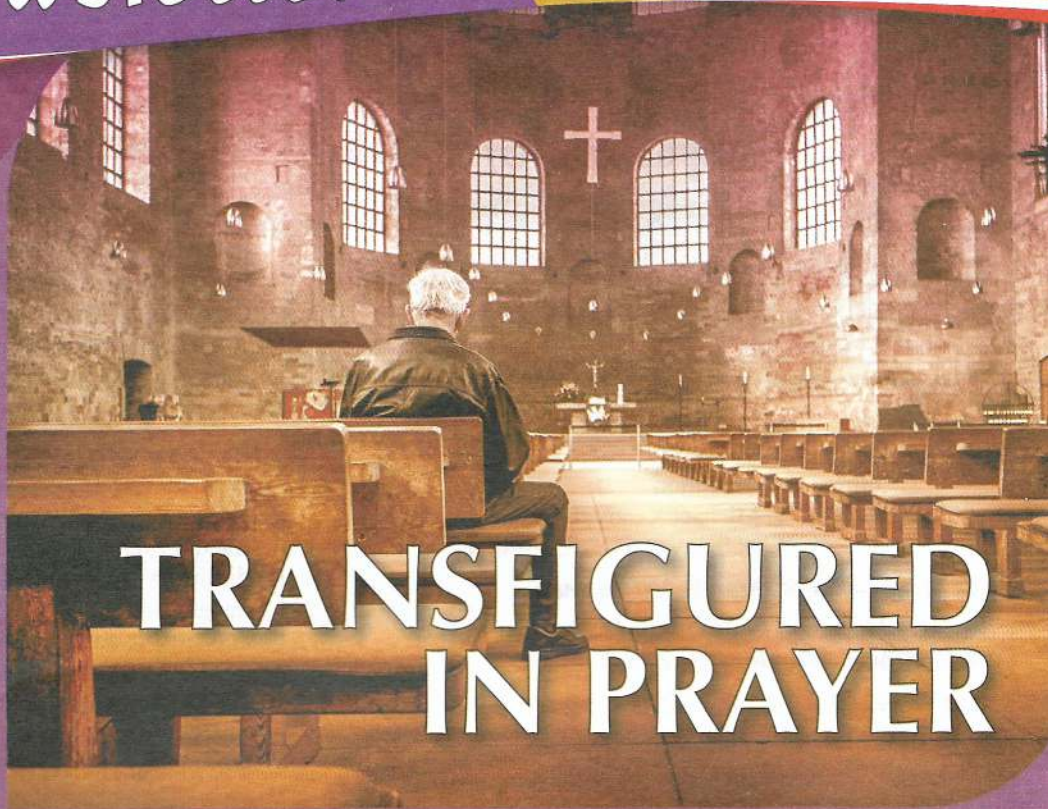


Parish Newsletter



TRANSFIGURED IN PRAYER

It's commonly held that the Transfiguration experience on Mount Tabor was to help the disciples in the impending difficult times: that a glimpse of glory would help them endure times of pain.

Sometimes we all need those moments as we wonder about the purpose and pattern of trials in our life. Mind you, of the three (Peter, James and John) who came up the mountain and glimpsed the glory, only one (John) would stand by Jesus in the time of trial. This comes as a certain relief to me as I sometimes find that people make amazing assumptions about priests and their spiritual life. Sometimes I don't pray as much as I should or even could; sometimes I'm truthful and sometimes I'm not. But the Lord never chooses the qualified; he qualifies the ones he chooses. If he can choose to reveal himself to weak and fragile humanity as he did on Mount Tabor, he can do it for me.

Life has changed. The modern pilgrim can ascend Tabor on a winding road by Mercedes Taxi screeching around the hairpin bends. But some of us

had a sweaty climb up the 2,000 feet of Tabor. But, whatever your means of transport, the experience of life is a great leveller. Rich or poor, we have in our common humanity the shared experience of joy and sorrow.

In his dream-like poem, 'The Lotos Eaters,' Alfred Tennyson describes a sense of weary resignation, in face of the passing years:

*Let us alone. Time driveth onward fast,
... Let us alone. What is it that
will last?*

*All things are taken from us
and become
Portions and parcels of the
dreadful past.*

The Christian believes that every life journey is going somewhere. It's not a treadmill experience that has a terminal point with death. We are pilgrims, moving onwards as ever, towards the land of promise. As St Paul says in the second reading, we have our fair share of 'hardships' and setbacks along the way. And in the

end, if we are faithful, we will share the total joy of joining Christ in glory as the reward of life's pilgrimage.

I am reminded of my beloved River Shannon that I have lived beside most of my life. My good friend Eamon (RIP) taught me to learn from the river - not to rush from point to point, cramming in experiences, but to savour and live each moment. When you rush you do harm. Tabor moments are to be savoured, and not sped through.

- Tom Cox



Reflection

Place yourself on the mountain and feel what takes place there.



Lesson

Jesus comes to his frightened disciples and touches them. The touch of Jesus always encourages, gives life and heals.



Prayer

Glory to you, O Lord Jesus, in the splendour of your Transfiguration.



This Week (9-15 March)

- 9 M St Frances of Rome, religious
- 10 T St John Ogilvie
- 11 W St Aengus, bishop and abbot
- 12 T St Maximilian of Tebessa, martyr
- 13 F St Euphrasia, virgin
- 14 S St Leobinus, bishop and abbot; St Matilde
- 15 S THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT