

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (YEAR B) Sunday 11 February 2024

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

# WEARING WHITE

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Introducing the Gospel*

##### *Transfiguration (Mark 9: 2-9)*

The season of Epiphany is concerned with the theme of revelation, how the presence and power of God is made known through the person of Jesus. At the beginning of the Epiphany season the voice from heaven spoke to Jesus at his baptism, 'You are my Son'. Now at the end of the Epiphany season the same voice speaks at Jesus' transfiguration, but now to those who are with him, 'This is my Son'. This time the divine revelation clothes Jesus, appropriately, with robes of pure and dazzling white

Our image to stimulate reflection on Mark's account of the Transfiguration of Jesus is *wearing white*.

#### *Core extracts from the Gospel passage (Mark 9: 2-3; for reflection throughout the week)*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John,  
and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves.  
And he was transfigured before them,  
and his clothes became dazzling white,  
such as no one on earth could bleach them.

#### *Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your disciples saw your glory  
on the mount of the transfiguration.  
Open our eyes to the brightness of your glory,  
that our lives may be transformed by your presence;  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**

**Mark 9: 2-9**

**The Transfiguration**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (YEAR B) Sunday 11 February 2024

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME**

### ***Dwelling on the text (Mark 9: 2-9)***

Begin to explore Mark's narrative of the Transfiguration of Jesus by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

### ***Thinking and talking***

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you make of Jesus taking Peter, James, and John with him?
- What is the significance of the mountain?
- What are Moses and Elijah doing there?
- Compare the voice at the Transfiguration with the voice at the Baptism
- How can we best understand the narrative for today?

### ***Using your Bible***

Explore how Matthew and Luke develop Mark's narrative of the Transfiguration:

- Mark 17: 1-9
- Luke 9: 28-37

Explore the significance of Peter, James, and John in Mark's Gospel:

- Mark 5: 37
- Mark 14: 33

Explore images of dazzling garments in the Old Testament:

- Psalm 104: 1-2
- Daniel 7: 9

## SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (YEAR B) Sunday 11 February 2024

### *Exploring online*

Widen your exploration of Mark's narrative of the Transfiguration of Jesus by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Commentary on the Transfiguration of Jesus
- Classic images of the Transfiguration of Jesus
- Use of white vestments in church

### *Drawing on experience*

The image to stimulate reflection on Mark's narrative of the Transfiguration of Jesus is *wearing white*. Draw on your own experience of wearing white. For example:

- Your experiences of the colour white
- How the colour white makes you feel
- Your experiences of white vestments in church

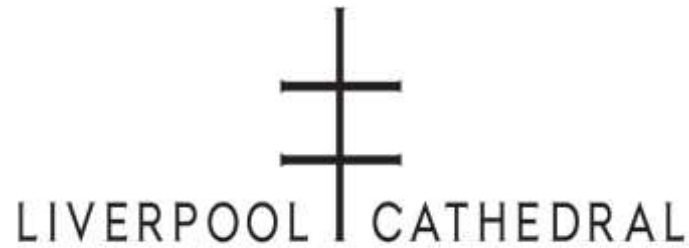
What have you learned about wearing white?

### *Creating and making*

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Mark's narrative of the Transfiguration of Jesus or by the image of wearing white.

- Create a collage of white clothes or white vestments.
- Create a large mural using white paint on a black background.
- Make a poster of white objects.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the Transfiguration of Jesus or on the image of wearing white.

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (YEAR B) Sunday 11 February 2024



## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com](mailto:smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com).

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2023  
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral  
with sponsorship and support from  
St Christopher's College Trust  
St Mary's Centre, Wales