

# SoulSpace

SERIES: YOUR LENTEN GUIDE

Season colour: **PURPLE**

In this series, Fr George Wadding reflects on the season of Lent.

A few days before the events in today's gospel Jesus had asked that very question of his apostles: "Who do you say I am?" And Peter blurted out a startling answer: "You are the Christ," he said, "the son of the living God." He had expressed faith in Jesus as the promised Messiah. And today on the mountain-top Jesus confirms Peter's faith. What Peter had professed in faith, he now saw with his own eyes, and James and John were there to witness it with him: This fellow-Galilean, so like themselves in speech and culture and yet so different in the authority with which he spoke and the wonders which emanated from him, - there he was transfigured before their very eyes; his face dazzling like the sun, his clothes luminous like no earthly light they had ever seen. And there with Jesus were Israel's two most illustrious figures, Moses and Elijah, confirming Peter's faith that Jesus was indeed the Messiah they had foretold. This exaltation of Jesus reached its startling zenith when the voice of God proclaimed "This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him."

## PASSION AHEAD

In Luke's version of this incident, Moses and Elijah "were talking of Christ's passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem." They were talking about what Christ would suffer in Jerusalem. You see, it was extremely important that the apostles should realise that Jesus was not the sort of Messiah the Jews had been expect-



ing. He was not a war-lord who would lead victorious armies against the Romans. Quite the opposite, in fact! He would be a suffering servant of his people. It was important that his apostles would get that message loud and clear. And, when in fact the worst happened on Good Friday, they might remember that Christ and Moses and the prophets had foretold the Lord's suffering, and the glory of the mountain top might sustain their faith through his passion and crucifixion. When they were at their lowest, they might remember the heights of Taboo.

## MEANT FOR US

It is good to remember that Calvary is only part of Christ's story sandwiched between the Transfiguration and Easter - the God who became man and the man who became God. The glimpse of the God in Christ on the mountain top was not meant just for three people. It was meant for all of us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of God. Christ's glory gives us all true hope, for each one of us carries within us the seed of that same glory. At Mass, when the priest puts water into the wine he prays: "By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity". Death is not the end of our Christian story. Our story ends with our transfiguration. As the hymn says, "the seed of glory sown in man will flower when we see your face." ■



## Today's readings

Genesis 12:1-4  
2 Timothy 1:8-10  
Matthew 17:1-9

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

Jesus should be the centre of our thoughts during Lent. Part of the purpose of fasting is to make us more spiritually aware. The less our body has to do, the more our mind can be active. Comfort eating is a way of avoiding staying with uncomfortable thoughts, of facing ourselves as we are at the present moment. Any form of addiction is at its root a way of trying to cope with our spiritual need. Filling our time with distractions, sometimes even praiseworthy activities can be a means of avoiding the deep questions which come to all of us.

Lent is a time to put such distractions aside and to ask ourselves what is really important, what can give genuine meaning to our existence.

Lent will then be a period when we grow spiritually, as we will be looking out from ourselves to the person of Jesus. It was through the Cross that he came to the existence which is his destiny: the Transfiguration should give us hope that our cross will not be the end of the story either.

For three years Jesus had walked the roads of Palestine with a small group of intimate followers. He looked just like any man from their villages - yet he was different. He was different from any religious leader they had ever met. He wasn't hidebound by human rules and traditions. Unlike their own Rabbis, he cured the sick, gave sight to the blind, even raised the dead to life. Sure if people only touched the hem of his garment power went out from him. Devils trembled before him. The very elements obeyed him and he spoke with real authority. Who on earth was he? Who was he?

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT.**

**Today, Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

On the holy mountain Jesus revealed himself in glory to his disciples. He had already prepared them for his approaching death. He wanted to teach them through the Law and the Prophets that the promised Christ had first to suffer and so come to glory.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL - LENT 2017**

**LENTEN COMMITMENTS - A SUGGESTION  
DAILY MASS**

We encourage you to attend daily mass, times 8.00 am and 10.30am, in preparation for Easter.

**TROCAIRE BOXES**

As the Trocaire boxes will not be delivered to homes in our Parish this Lent, we ask you to take one home with you today, they are available at the entrance to the Cathedral. This Lent Trocaire is asking people to remember those in the developing world who are living in poverty.

**P.S. I LOVE YOU—LENTEN REFLECTIONS**

Consider giving an extra half hour to the Lord for Lent after the Saturday Vigil Mass from 8.15pm to 8.45pm. A time of reflections and quiet on the Sunday Gospel before the Blessed Sacrament in our Cathedral for every Saturday of Lent.

**LENTEN SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP** will meet in the Library, St. Anne's Church, Cranmore, Sligo on Mondays at 8pm and in Gillooly Hall (room on left) on the Tuesdays of Lent at 8pm. All are welcome.

**SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUPS**

Gospel passages and reflections now available to download from [www.elphindiocese.ie/lent](http://www.elphindiocese.ie/lent)

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS—LENT 2017**

After the 10.30 a.m. Mass on each Friday during Lent there will be a short meditation on the Way of the Cross. All are encouraged to attend.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PERMANENT DEACON IN THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN?**

The Diocese of Elphin is now accepting applications from married and single men who may feel called to ministry as Permanent Deacons. The four year part-time training programme will begin in Autumn 2017. For further information contact the Director of the Permanent Diaconate by email to [mgduignan@gmail.com](mailto:mgduignan@gmail.com) or visit [www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie) under the "Vocations" Section. The next intake of candidates will be 2021.

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 19<sup>th</sup> March** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ex. 17: 3-7; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Rom. 5: 1-2. 5-8; Gospel: Jn. 4:5-42.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** Lord, grant me the grace and strength I need to reject sin and to serve you with all of my heart this Lent. Amen.

**FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland; Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop of Jerusalem.

**BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00 p.m.**

With a jackpot of €3,400.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**

SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH PARISH ENV: €1,885 PLUSTAND. ORD: €1,670

THANK YOU for your contribution.

ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261

**EASTER IN CATHEDRAL**

We are delighted to announce that the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday ceremonies are to be broadcast from our Cathedral on R.T.E. and Eurovision. This is a tremendous honour for our Cathedral and our Parish. To facilitate the broadcast the Easter Vigil will be celebrated at **11.00pm** and Easter Sunday at **10.00am** this year. Mass will also be celebrated at 8.30am, 12noon and 7.00pm on Easter Sunday.

**WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON THE FAMILY**

"The life of every family is marked by all kinds of crises, yet these are also part of its dramatic beauty". (Amoris Laetitia 232)

**BAPTISMS** We welcome into God's family LEO CAWLEY, LINCOLIN KELLY and JAKE POWER recently baptised in our Cathedral.

**WEDDINGS** Congratulations and best wishes to ANDREW HENDERSON and JAMIE MONAGHAN who were married recently in our Cathedral.

**JOY OF BELLS** Bishop Kevin Doran and Dean Afron Williams will gather with their congregations on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am at the back steps of the Cathedral (John St, Sligo) to listen to the Cathedral bells ring out as part of the "Joy of Bells" initiative expressing solidarity with migrants and refugees.

**24 HOUR SILENT EUCHARISTIC VIGIL** for the protection of the Unborn Child in the Womb, for all women and for the protection of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel beside the Cathedral, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March (the Feast of the Annunciation) from 9.00am until 9.00am on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA** Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, a pilgrim statue will visit Sligo on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March arriving at 6pm to Sligo Cathedral with Mass at 7.30pm. The church will remain open until midnight and the visit ends after 12noon Mass on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**LENTEN RETREAT-GALILEE COMMUNITY** All are invited to a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am at the Galilee Community (outside Boyle on N4). Theme: Mary's faith gave her courage to remain with her Son on the Journey to Calvary. Presenter: Fr Jim Noonan OCD. Lunch included. Cost of day €25 per person.

**TROCAIRE** is asking people to remember those in the developing world living in poverty this Lent. Each Monday during Lent, Deacon Damien Kearns will share his experience of visiting Honduras with Trocaire. These reflections will be posted weekly on [www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie).

**ACCORD ELPHIN** is currently recruiting marriage care facilitators to help with Pre-Marriage course in the diocese. Full training provided. Course take place in Sligo, Boyle and Roscommon. Also, Accord Sligo are seeking Associate Counsellors interested in working with couples at the Sligo centre. Further information from the Accord office in Sligo. Telephone 071 9145641 or email [accordsligo@eircom.net](mailto:accordsligo@eircom.net)

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Upcoming **EVENTS** THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> March "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Confessions 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**CHURCH GATE COLLECTION** for Sligo Scout Group to be held this weekend, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March. Please support.

**ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY** Next meeting will take place tomorrow - Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, immediately after the 10.30am Mass in the Upper Room of the Cathedral Sacristy. New members welcome.

**THE WAY OF GENTLENESS** A personal enrichment journey for Lent in St Patrick's Church, Strandhill on Mondays at 8pm on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**SLIGO ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION** Monthly meeting at 2.30pm in the Presbyterian Hall, Church Street on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March. New members welcome.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY TEA & COFFEE ON THE GO** in the Gillooly Hall from 10.30am to 1.30pm on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March in aid of Elphin Lourdes Assisted Pilgrim Fund. Please support.

**CATHOLIC YOUTH ADULT CONFERENCE** will be held in The Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo on 25 March from 10.00 am-6.30 pm. Cost €15 call 087 2747873 for more details.

**JUNIOR & LEAVING CERTIFICATE ESSAY WRITING COURSES** suitable for papers 1 & 2 or any subject requiring essay or paragraph attention will be held in the Yeats Memorial Building. Courses will be held for Junior Cert on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am - 12 pm & Leaving Cert on March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm - 4pm. Places are limited. To register or for more details contact 083 8561559.

**PIONEER NATIONAL BALL** takes place on Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in Sheraton Athlone Hotel, after 6.30pm Mass in St. Mary's Church, Athlone. Tickets €30. Guest Speaker: Jim Bolger. Music by Nite Fever. Contact Brenda Lynch 087 6189411 or Dermot Fagan 085 7201646.



**THE WESTERN DRAMA FESTIVAL** is hosting the All Ireland confined drama finals in St. Brigid's hall theatre, Tubbercurry from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Booking for the finals is being handled by the Hawks Well Theatre, Sligo. Season tickets and individual night tickets are now available.

**CLIMB FOR LIFE AT CROAGH PATRICK** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. A bus will be leaving Sligo Cathedral on the Saturday morning at 9.00am. To book your place please contact Lisa on 087 6274621.

**PILGRIMAGE TO MEDIGORJE** 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 7 nights half board in Guesthouse will cost €719 per person inclusive, ex Knock day flight. For more information please contact group leader Tom Moran at 086 0815635 or [www.joewalshstours.ie](http://www.joewalshstours.ie)

**ELPHIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. For further information and to book contact JWT on 01 2410800.

**Anniversary & remembrances**

DAY	8.00am	10.30am
MON 13 <sup>th</sup>	BREEGE PRESTON & JOHN VAHEY	<b>Month's Mind</b> PADDY GALLAGHER 
TUES 14 <sup>th</sup>	JACK GALLAGHER	GRAY FAMILY
WED 15 <sup>th</sup>	MAI, JOHN & MICHAEL HOWLEY & Dec'd family members of Howley, Hallinan & Boland families.	THOMAS & MARY FALLON
THURS 16 <sup>th</sup>	DAN & MURIEL CURRID	EAMON MARTYN & BAITHIN MARTYN
FRI 17 <sup>th</sup>	ST. PATRICK'S DAY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY
SAT 18 <sup>th</sup>	MARY QUIGLEY	<b>Month's Mind</b> WILLIAM WARD 

**Rest in peace** Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: MARGARET MAHON, Oakfield Crescent and KATHLEEN SCANLON, Upper John St. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*