

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

WEARING WHITE

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on 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 this passage is *wearing white*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Mark 9: 2-3)

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

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.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Mark's narrative of the Transfiguration of Jesus (Mark 9: 2-9):

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- 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

Exploring online

- explore commentary on the Transfiguration of Jesus
- explore classic images of the Transfiguration of Jesus
- explore use of white vestments in church

Drawing on experience

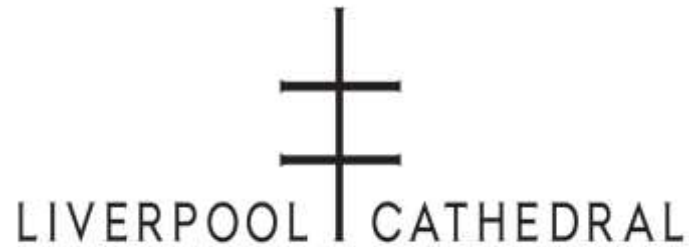
- reflect on your experiences of the colour white
- reflect on how the colour white makes you feel
- reflect on your experiences of white vestments in church

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (YEAR B) SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2021

Creating and making

- 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 Transfiguration of Jesus

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EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

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 Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

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.



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