

Second Sunday of Lent – 16th March 2025

	Gospel (Luke 9:28-36)	First Reading (Genesis 15:5-12.17-18)	Second Reading (Philippians 3:17-4:1)
Context	Luke's gospel describes Jesus' birth, childhood and development. Today's passage describes "The Transfiguration" of Jesus - a remarkable event in which Jesus's true identity is revealed to us.	Learning about our ancestors helps us to understand ourselves. Today's passage tells us about important promises God made to Abram (Abraham), who was a man of great faith.	Paul wrote to the Philippians to thank them for the gift they had sent him and to strengthen believers by showing them that true joy comes from Jesus Christ alone.
Key verses	<i>"As he (Jesus) prayed, the aspect of his face changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning."</i>	<i>"Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified."</i>	<i>"...the Lord Jesus Christ...will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body."</i>
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus took Peter, John and James to the mountain to show them who he really is – the Son of God, rather than just a teacher or a great prophet. • Moses represented God's law and Elijah represented the prophets. • God's voice made it clear that Jesus was the Messiah, who would fulfill both the law and the prophets. • As God's Son, Jesus is our final authority. We can completely trust his teachings and the example of his life. • By offering to make three shelters, Peter wanted to keep Moses and Elijah with them, but this was not part of God's plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abram's faith in God is a crucial factor in this passage. Although Abram demonstrated his faith in God through his actions, it was his belief God that made him right with God. • God made two significant promises to Abram. Firstly, he promised him countless biological descendants, who would span many generations. Secondly, he promised him vast amounts of land, which would be inherited by Abram's descendants. • Before God made the second promise of land, Abram asked God for certainty about his inheritance. Abram needed to know that he was doing God's will. Abram did not have the Bible, which is readily available to us today. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul challenged the Philippians to be like Christ by following Paul's own example. Although Paul was not perfect, he focused his life on being like Christ. • Paul criticised those who did not live up to Christ's model of self-sacrifice and servanthood. Such people are self-serving and focus on satisfying their own desires, rather than looking after the needs of others. • Paul emphasised the importance of heaven, which he described as "our homeland." This calls upon Christians to think differently about the value they place on "earthly things", especially things that often distract us from God.
Questions/ application to our lives	<p>What glimpses of God's Kingdom do we see in this passage?</p> <p>Do you think that some people still doubt Jesus' existence and spiritual authority? If so, what can we do to lead them to Jesus's faithful promise of Good News for all who believe in him?</p>	<p>What does this passage teach us about the importance of faith in God?</p> <p>Do you think God's promises to Abram still apply to us today?</p> <p>Are good deeds enough to build a close relationship with God? If not, what else do we need to do to achieve a solid personal relationship with God?</p>	<p>In recognising that Paul set a wonderful example for his fellow Christians, do you feel confident that you could do the same? What kind of follower would a new Christian become if they followed your lead?</p> <p>What "earthly things" are distracting you from God, and how can you change this?</p>
Further reading	Catechism 554-556, 568	Catechism 59, 145-146, 2570-2572	Catechism 645, 999-1001