

Our three readings today talk about transformations, Moses after his meeting with God on the mountain top and receiving the Ten Commandments, Jesus, also on the mountain top with Moses and Elijah, and Paul talking of those of us who are Christians being transformed by growing into Jesus' likeness.

In both the cases of Moses and Jesus it seems to have been a radiance, a glow, and definitely a change from the normal appearance. The echo from Jesus' baptism is also there; "This is my Son, whom I have chosen, listen to him." And Paul suggests that as we are being transformed we should be helping others to listen to Christ, because we have the Holy Spirit in us to help us in our ministry.

So many links between the readings, for once the Lectionary message is clear, and just before Lent as well. Lent, a time for us to be reflective, a time perhaps for giving up something of the world in order to take up something that may be transformational, a time of denial but only to allow us to fly, not just denial for denial's sake.

I spend some of my free time doing creative things and reading novels. For Lent I give up novels to enable me to have more time for spiritual reading and meditation. It is why I am such a fan of Lent Groups and Lent reading courses it is a discipline of taking something up. Of course if I wasn't so neglectful of God perhaps I wouldn't have to do this, but this is my life and so for Advent and Lent it is my challenge.

Because transformation is our goal isn't it? To love God so much, not for present or future rewards or blessings, not for answers to prayers, but just to love in a way that changes our lives for ever. The glory of God that transformed Moses' face was transient, but the glory that the Spirit gives us when we turn to Christ is everlasting and can transform us and our lives. Because that is what is so important, we can't stay up on the mountain forever. Moses came down, Jesus and the disciples came down and they immediately faced evil. We live in the world, not a holy bubble, our ministry is in the world being transformed and helping others be

transformed by meeting the God of love. Our faith has to make sense in the real world as well as on the mountain top.

We worship the King of Kings, not in a palace but in the mud of the refugee camp, as we do the washing up or the gardening, as we offer a stranger a shoulder to cry on, as we cut back on something in order to benefit others. Our lives are a far cry from that of Peter, James and John, of the disciples who couldn't cast out the devil, but like them, we are all a work in progress, with the help of the Holy Spirit and God's love we are being transformed, however slowly, more and more into Christ's likeness. The Christ whose life's work was to obey God and show his love to others, who mixed with sinners, who healed the sick and took himself off alone to be with the Father.

And this is our work this Lent particularly. We are going to eat with sinners, at least we are if we come to the Lent Lunches (!) which I can highly commend. We do have an opportunity to grow spiritually if we do what is essential, that is

to spend more time with the Father. As our knowledge deepens the Holy Spirit helps us to change, as we change we become more Christ – like. Give to God what is God's; our time, our love, our lives.