

**Readings Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18; Phillipians 3: 17- 4: 1; Luke 9: 28-36**



**Fr Michael says:**

### **The Transfiguration**

I love going on the “Dodgems” when there is a fair around! When I was a Curate in Bethnal Green in the 70s, the parish used to have a day out to Frinton and I discovered them on the pier there. I could not get off them! I had a wonderful sense of exhilaration and joy, which flowed over into the Mass the next day, which was the Feast of the Transfiguration and it gave me something of the sense of mystery and awe that I am sure the Apostles felt when Jesus revealed Himself fully to them.

Something of all that would have entered Abraham’s mind and heart, with the myriad of stars he saw and hearing the promise of many descendants from God, solemnly creating the Covenant with him through the ritual which is described in the text, in the gift of the land upon which he was presently living forever! Paul urges us to hold on to this feeling as we live and journey to glory! From this moment, to Mount Sinai and the 10 Commandments, to the Covenant in the blood of Jesus, such is the journey we are called to live out in our own lives!

How we feel is often shown on our faces! It is part of being human and normal, yet we often find ourselves hiding how we are behind a false face. Jesus reveals the fullness of who He is to the Apostles at this special moment, but it does not mean that His other faces are false: they also reveal who He is, as fully human – but here He reveals the divine, confirmed by His Father’s voice!

The fullness of the mystery of who we are is never fully shown, despite the face being the window of the soul. The Lord is inviting us to be open to new ways, for us to change perspectives and ways of life. It is for us to savour and appreciate them and integrate them into ourselves, as we journey through life, in faith and trust. It gives us the wonderful chance to bask in the reality of us being a child of God and also honouring that reality in those with whom we live, work and share the journey to eternal glory.

How do we do this? As we all experience moments of great joy, like I did at Frinton, we also taste the goodness of God NOW the joy of the Kingdom to come. However no matter how great our joy is now, it will not satisfy us forever – we want the permanent state of happiness, but we will never share it here. We are called to be like desert travellers, going forward from one oasis to another, with the belief that God has a homeland prepared for us at the end of the journey. Our yearning and desire will move us forward to get there, but we need to take time out regularly to appreciate this! Do we do that? It is the challenge our Lenten journey asks of us, to live the mercy and love of the Lord and build our community whilst empowering others!