

SUNDAY PLUS

Sometimes in solitude...

Our pilgrimage towards heaven

By Fr Royston Price
C.Ss.R.

The entrance antiphon at Mass today tells us: "It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me." Our journey through life is a pilgrimage towards heaven, where we shall see the Lord face to face. In the Gospel, the three apostles behold the astonishing radiance of Christ, a consolation that sticks with them through the trials and sufferings to come. In our Christian life we sometimes have moments

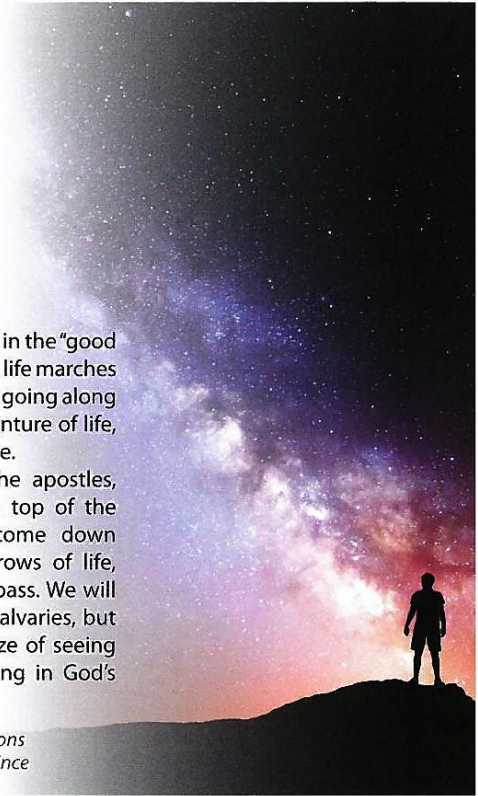
of feeling the presence of God strongly, a drop of sweetness that is a foretaste of eternity. These times of consolation fortify us for the tough times in our pilgrimage, the times of sorrow, anguish and confusion.

Peter, James and John are deeply affected by their experience on Mount Tabor and long to stay there, to be with Jesus in that special way for ever. However, the Lord knows that he must come down from the mountain and set his face for Jerusalem, onward to his passion and ultimate victory. When we find some special place or time where God speaks to us, it is very tempting

to freeze, to want to stay in the "good space" for ever. However, life marches on and we all must keep going along the path, the great adventure of life, headed towards the prize.

As with Jesus and the apostles, we can't stay safely on top of the mountain, but must come down into the mess and sorrows of life, knowing that they will pass. We will pass through our own calvaries, but come at last to that prize of seeing the face of God, of being in God's presence for ever.

Fr Royston Price is the Vocations Director for the London Province of the Redemptorists.



St Patrick's breastplate (excerpt)

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

Attributed to St Patrick AD 433

Feast of the week Thursday 17 March

St Patrick (c. 385-461)

St Patrick was born in Britain – possibly in Wales – during the early fifth century and, at the age of 16, was taken prisoner by a band of Irish raiders who attacked his parents' farm. He seems to have been taken to Antrim or Mayo and put to work as a shepherd. Lonely and afraid, he rediscovered Christianity.

After six years, Patrick escaped and returned to Britain. Soon afterwards,

he believed that God wanted him to go back to Ireland – but as a missionary, a venture which took 15 years of study, preparation and ordination to the priesthood.

Knowing something of the Irish language and culture, Patrick thus incorporated Irish traditions into his teaching of Christianity. So, for example, he celebrated Easter with bonfires and superimposed the sun onto the cross, creating the Celtic cross. He also used the three-leafed shamrock to explain how the Trinity could be three Persons and yet one God.

"The disciples not only listened to his words; they watched him speak. Indeed, in him – the incarnate Logos – the Word took on a face; the invisible God let himself be seen, heard and touched, as John himself tells us. The word is effective only if it is "seen", only if it engages us in experience, in dialogue."

Pope Francis

Today: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28-36	Monday: Daniel 9:4-10 Luke 6:36-38	Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10. 16-20 Matthew 23:1-12	Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20 Matthew 20:17-28	Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10 Luke 16:19-31 (E&S) St Patrick (Feast): 1 Peter 4:7-11	Luke 5:1-11 (I) St Patrick (Solemnity): Jeremiah 1:4-9 Acts 13:46-49 Luke 10:1-12, 17-20	Friday: Genesis 37:3-4. 12-13, 17-28 Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46	Saturday: 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24	Next Sunday: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9
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