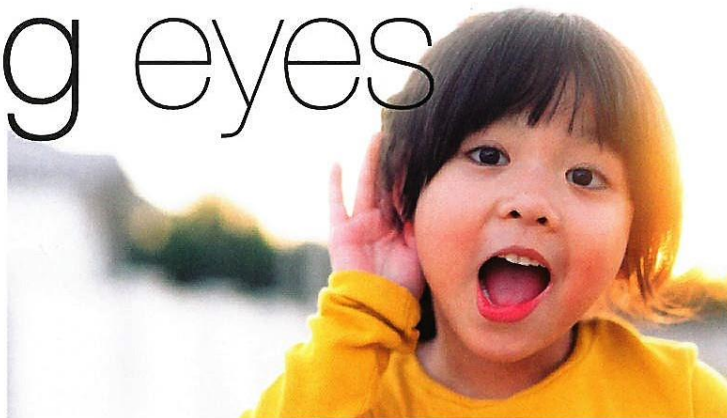


SUNDAY PLUS

The eyes of my heart

The listening eyes of my heart



By Mary Bell

We live in a world of transformations where virtual reality is a commonplace of many people's experiences, where every digital image can be photoshopped, so the events up the mountain witnessed by Peter, James and John perhaps lose some of the impact they might have had for previous generations. For the disciples, however, the vision of the transfigured Jesus

was undeniably shocking and fear-inducing especially when the voice of God spoke from the cloud claiming Jesus as his Son and demanding that they should listen to him. No less shocking were Jesus' own words implying that he would rise from the dead.

Listening is very important. In the first reading Abram listened to God's command to leave everything and travel to an alien land believing that he would found a new nation. Paul also listened to the call to spread the good news

about Jesus Christ our saviour. We too are called to recognise Jesus as the Son of God and spread his message of love and peace, believing that, as he triumphed over death, we also will rise in glory with him in heaven.


Pope Francis says, "Fundamentally listening is a dimension of love. The true seat of listening is the heart."

Do we normally block out

the possibility of any divine communication with our humdrum daily lives? We are asked to climb a different sort of mountain to follow Jesus.

Are our minds and hearts open to God's call? Are we listening?

Following many years in the classroom, retired teacher and school principal, Mary Bell now has time to enjoy the beauties of the natural world around her.

Lord Jesus, let me see you with the eyes of my heart so that I can also see you living and working in me and in other people.  Amen.

Transformed inside

By James Gallogly

In a moment of blissful excitement, we can be easily distracted. Invariably this momentary lapse passes unobserved, and minor embarrassment may be the worst of it. Very rarely, however, but tragically, this can be the precursor of crime.

Peter, James and John were guilty of nothing more than being lost in a moment, yet they were floored by fear. Realising one's actions have damaged others takes a change of heart informed by a mixture

of remorse and a desire for change. It can be a place of fear and terror. Yet it is here that Jesus says, "Stand up... do not be afraid."

In prison people seek transfiguration, complete transformation following a moment in their lives when distraction was complete. This desire for rehabilitation is admirable yet often thwarted in a challenged justice system. Our thoughts about what constitutes punishment may need reassessment. In the meantime, can our prayers help them to their feet?

James Gallogly is a lay Catholic chaplain in a UK prison.

Feast of the week

Monday 6 March

St Colette

(1381-1447)

St Colette is the patron saint of expectant mothers, of those who long to conceive a child and of sick children.

A tradition linked to St Colette tells of a man who took his stillborn infant to the parish priest for baptism. The priest refused, pointing out that the child was dead. The man insisted. He repeatedly returned to the priest, carrying his baby. The

priest became angry: "Take it to the nuns, I can't do anything for you!" The hysterical father, clutching his pathetic bundle, arrived at St Colette's house. She did a strange thing. She took off her veil and instructed the portress to tell the man to wrap his child in it and go back to the priest. When the priest saw the man return with his black-wrapped burden, he immediately protested – and then heard a faint cry from inside the veil. With trembling haste, they opened the font and baptised the now-wailing baby...

From an article by a Poor Clare Colettine, Ty Mam Duw

By his transfiguration [Jesus] invites us to gaze at him. And looking at Jesus purifies our eyes and prepares them for eternal life, for the vision of heaven.

Pope Francis

Today:
Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9

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

Friday:
Genesis 37:3-4. 12-13. 17-28
Matthew 21:33-43. 45-46

(S) St John Ogilvie (Feast):
Isaiah 50:5-9
2 Corinthians 1:3-7
John 12:24-26

Saturday:
Micah 7:14-15.
18-20
Luke 15:1-3.
11-32

Next Sunday:
Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2. 5-8
John 4:5-42