



Dear God, take us out of the world, silence us with your awesomeness and renew us with your love, so we may be inspired, and with new courage to do your will. Amen.

A glimpse of eternity

Jo Jones *reflects on* Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus' transfiguration is a glimpse of eternity. In this moment of timelessness he is joined by Moses and Elijah, their presence a physical embodiment of Jesus' teaching that he is the fulfilment of the Law and the prophets. Such is the awesomeness of this moment that the disciples fall over with fear. If before they had doubts, now they know that Jesus is no ordinary man.

How much, too, Jesus must need the encouragement of this moment – to hear God say, "This is my Son, the Beloved", before he begins his journey towards Jerusalem, knowing the suffering he had to face.

This morning I was walking wrapped up in my worries. Suddenly a dandelion clock caught my eye. Transformed by dew, it sparkled. I marvelled. By chance I was carrying my camera. I took a photo. Enlarged, the transformation of the ordinary to extraordinary grew. I felt as if I had been given a moment out of time, a gift from God. I had new courage to go on.

Jesus took time to go away with just three of his closest companions to be with God. For us, retreat centres provide opportunities for time away with God. We need to take these opportunities, to give God a chance to speak to us, so we know we too are God's beloved, and are strengthened to face whatever will come. 😊

Names of Jesus Part 3 – a family name

by Heather Smith

At Jesus' baptism Matthew describes a voice from heaven declaring, "this is my Son, the Beloved". Here then, is an early indication that Jesus is the Son of God, confirming the words that Gabriel spoke to Mary in Luke 1.

Each "son of..." title gives us more insight into who Jesus is and how he fits into salvation history. "Son of David" indicates that he was a descendant of King David, but is also a messianic title. Jesus sits within a historical human

family, but his significance in that family is much greater than for other descendants.

Jesus described himself as the "Son of Man". He uses the title seventy-eight times. It seems to reference Daniel 7:13, where (in most translations) one "like a son of man" is given dominion over all the earth. The NRSV's version "human being" further emphasises his humanity.

We have come full circle: Son of God and Son of Man, those lofty titles frame the more intimate human relationships and express the mystery that is Jesus. 😊

“Ash Wednesday is full of joy... The source of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust.”

Thomas Merton (1915-1968), American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet and social activist

A Lenten Camino Part 1 – a preamble

by Sr Janet Fearn

During Lent, Sr Janet Fearn's FMDM will guide us through reflections based on the Camino Inglés to Santiago de Compostela.

There are at least twelve distinct routes for pilgrims to follow to Compostela, a renowned place of pilgrimage since the eleventh century. There are the English, the French and the Portuguese Ways, and also several within Spain. The shortest is from Sarria-Portomarín to Compostela, a "mere" 113km. The longest, at 968km, starts in Seville. The English Way has two possible routes: from A Coruña (73km) or

Ferrol (118km). Both date from medieval times when pilgrims travelled via existing trade routes between England and the Spanish ports. They could reach Compostela within a few days and be reasonably certain of a safe passage home.

Sadly, the Reformation made pilgrimages from Britain very difficult so that the English Way fell into disuse until its revival. Today, the English and French routes join in the town of Bruma and continue for 40km to Santiago de Compostela.

Buen Camino!

Sr Janet's book, *A Lenten Camino*, is available from *Redemptorist Publications* as an e-book: www.rpbooks.co.uk/-a-lenten-camino 😊