



The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour
Mortimer West End

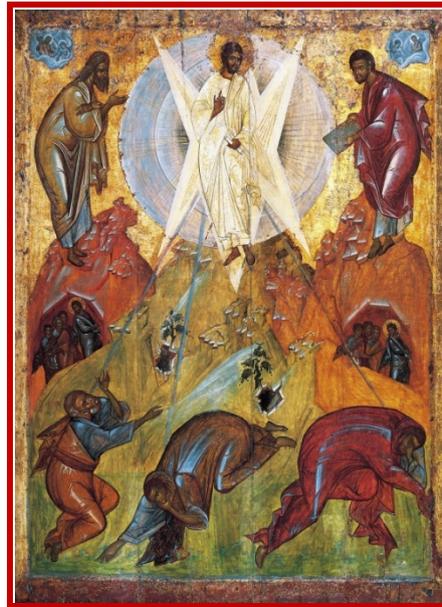
St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



The Transfiguration

The Parish Eucharist

for the Sunday next before Lent

Sunday 14th February 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Online at zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

Prayer Thought: We all know how sometimes we can get locked into our own particular situations and forget or lose sight of the fact that we are part of a much bigger community and world and have wider responsibilities. This Sunday's gospel story tells of how Jesus invited three friends to leave behind their busy situations for a short while to travel with him up a mountain to pray. The story tells how while they were there praying they saw Jesus transfigured before them. In other words, they came to see him differently and what a difference that made. Peter said: *'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here'*. Yet more important than what Peter said was what he and the others heard: *'This is my Son, the beloved, he enjoys my favour, listen to him'*.

These words can be as relevant for us today as they were for those who first listened to them. Today we can be bombarded with all sorts of news and not all of it good news and some of it 'fake'. Now, in all this can we accept the invitation to find time to pause to listen to Jesus' words and consider that message, which so many have found to be nourishing, nurturing and sustaining - indeed, life-giving and life-changing?

The Transfiguration on the mountain and all the transfigurations of our lives give us a brief and fleeting glimpse of the glory of grace and truth and what is, inevitably, to come. 'Transfigurations' challenge us to see God, others, ourselves and the whole world differently. And they encourage us to behave better and live more purposeful lives. The Transfiguration, and all the lesser transfigurations of our lives, remind us that there is far more than what we first see and experience and that life can be about discovering the reality of that deeper grace and truth. Being a disciple of Jesus is about listening to him as we seek to discern that grace and truth and that purposeful way of living which brings hope to our world. And as the Transfiguration offers us a glimpse of God's glory in Jesus, so it also offers each of us a glimpse of what we can be and of God's promise for us.

We may or may not experience anything as powerful as The Transfiguration, but, yet, every day in countless and seemingly small ways, God's goodness breaks into our world and sets before us the wonders of grace and truth. Every time we experience a moment of peace, of joy, of reconciliation or forgiveness, every time we see someone show kindness and care, every time we reach out to help another person, can be a moment of transfiguration both for ourselves and for those we help.

Lent begins this Ash Wednesday 17th February and let's make sure this Lent that we remember to pause to listen to Jesus' words and take to heart his message and then perhaps we and those around us might notice more of those wonderful life-giving and life-changing transfiguration moments. God bless, Paul

The Parish Eucharist

*The present rules and guidelines about attendance, singing & speaking in churches will be followed carefully.
This Sunday only the priest and the zoom operator may be at St John's church building.*

HYMN

**Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray
Let There Be Light!**

**Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
Let There Be Light!**

THE GATHERING AND GREETING

The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us. The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.

Priest In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We call to mind our sins to repent of them / turn from them and to ask forgiveness of God and each other.

The Invitation to Confession

Priest My dear brothers and sisters, as we come together as God's family let us acknowledge and confess our sins.

A pause for silent reflection follows.

Lord, we have sinned against you:

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your mercy and love.

All And grant us your salvation.

The Absolution

+ Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.

All Amen.

THE GLORIA

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

THE COLLECT

Our priest invites us to pray.

Priest Let us pray.

Together we spend a few moments in reverent silence realising that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The priest 'collects' our prayerful thoughts into theme of this Christmas Day celebration in the Opening Prayer, which is either sung or said.

Priest Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind.

In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his word. We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern of his plan for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).

THE FIRST READING - 2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6. Read by Elizabeth Porter

Reader A reading from The Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

At the end of the reading:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:

Matthew 17: 5

'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - MARK 9: 2 - 9.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you .

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

The Transfiguration

And at that time Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them, and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Eli'jah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Eli'jah.' For he did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him.' And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of man should have risen from the dead.

At the end of the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE SERMON

We are a Eucharistic community in word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming and healing love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. Our priest now reflects with us on the readings of the day relating them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary life.

After the sermon there is a short period of silent reflection.

THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED

We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding love and care.

All We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.

We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION

We are invited to pray for the needs of the Church and all people. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his intercessions before the Father for the needs of his Church and of all people. Our intercessions flow from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.

This Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercession is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes, our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities and families; for the sick and all in pain, for all who are working on the front line at this time of Covid 19; and for the departed. And in communion with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people to God's saving love.

Priest In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

The deacon or leader continues.

Lord of glory, renew your Church in holiness that we may all reflect the goodness of your glory. Guide Justin our Archbishop, Steven our bishop, Olivia our area bishop, our benefice, our schools of St Mary's and St John's, and all your Church in proclaiming your beloved Son to all the world.

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, bring healing to nations scarred by hatred, strife and war. Give wisdom to this nation's leaders - Elizabeth our Queen, our Government, our District and Village Councils and to all in authority that they may seek justice and peace and strive for the common good...

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, your Son shared in family life and friendships: in your love bless our families, friends and neighbours and all those who belong to our communities that we may serve Christ in one another and love as he loves us...

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, look with favour on those in need and distress and all those who are suffering...
May Christ the bright Morning Star bring them the light of his presence.

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, according to your promise, bring all Christ's brothers and sisters to see him in majesty and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory. Here we remember before you...

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, we rejoice in our fellowship with Mary, John the Evangelist, John the Baptist and all your saints and we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Priest

Lord of glory;

All In peace we make our prayer to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Give us grace to respond to the promptings of his Spirit and help us to be like him and to set our faces steadfastly to where you would have us go. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds carefully to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine in The Preparation of the Gifts we take our gifts to the Altar. Gifts or money for the poor and the Church's ministry to the poor are also presented. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful. 4) And in the giving of Holy Communion we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as the Apostles did from his hands. In this way Sunday by Sunday and day by day the Church carries out in loving obedience to his command what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.

THE PEACE

We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another and pray for peace and unity cf Luke 1.78,79.

Priest Christ will transfigure our body and give it a form like that of his own glorious body.

We are the body of Christ.

We share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All

And also with you.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

The offerings of money is made and promised to support the ministry and work of the Church.

Taking the Gifts: The priest gives thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.

Priest **BREAD**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

WINE

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts. The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

We are all invited to draw near in prayer:

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Priest Amen.

Lord, receive all we bring before you this day, and bring us to that radiant glory which we see in the transfigured face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said by the priest on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The Preface praises God for his mighty acts:

And now we give you thanks because the divine glory of the incarnate Word shone forth upon the holy mountain before the chosen witnesses of his majesty; and your own voice from heaven proclaimed your beloved Son. And so with joyful hearts we echo on earth the song of the angels in heaven as they praise your glory without end:

The Acclamation

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood. On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me.'

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your saints, we give you glory, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

The communion rite of the Church lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by love. We are confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly:

May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)

Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the entire Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. Through the breaking of the host the Eucharist is seen more clearly as a sign of unity and charity since the one bread is being distributed among the members of one family of God.

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds since then the sign of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, for the time being, communion can only be given in one kind for those who can come to church. Whilst others join faithfully online. Please God, may we all soon be able to come together again to receive Holy Communion under both kinds at the Lord's table. The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ.

When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:

+ **Amen.**

HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*The vessels are cleansed and put away. You may wish to join with the priest who prays quietly:
Lord, may these gifts give me purity of heart. May they bring me healing and strength, now and ever. Amen*

After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray

The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us to God's kingdom. All pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.

Priest Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **and also with you.**

THE BLESSING

Priest Christ Jesus, the splendour of the Father and the image of his being,
draw you to himself that you may live in his light and share his glory;
+ and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

All

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

**Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me
Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
*Lord, and let there be light.***

Remember the other maintain top experience of the disciples at the end, when he said to them:
'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28:18-20.)

