

# Time to Reflect

Here's a word you know and don't know you know. "Gesima". It appears in the old name for the three Sundays before Lent; Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima. Essentially we are in count down; 70, 60, 50 days before Easter (approx. for you fastidious counters). These are pre-Lent Sundays, preparation before the Season of Preparation, as it were.

And today, Quinquagesima in old money, the Sunday next before Lent in common currency, always has a version of the story of the Transfiguration, that occasion when Jesus takes his closest mates and goes up the mountain. Why do we hear this reading on this Sunday, the Sunday next before Lent?

It's a strange reading, involving shadowy figures, clouds, divine voices and anxious over-enthusiastic reactions. And the temptation is to unpick the experience, to rationalise, to speak knowingly of Jesus fulfilling the Old Testament, of mountains being "closer" to God, of silly disciples missing the meaning. That's the temptation. Most preachers (me included) find this safe ground.

But what if... what if this story is really a lot simpler than that? What if this story simply invites us to pause, in our preparation before the Season of Preparation, and think about the Jesus whom we are to follow closely throughout Lent? What if, as we hear this story, we step, with Peter, James and John, onto the mountain and stand with Jesus? No more, no less. And what if, as we stand, we decide to spend a bit of time, each day, doing the same? If we did that, then that would be preparation indeed.

## Worship and Activities this week

	<b>12.30pm</b> Baptism of Lucy Sanders 5.00pm Office Hour 6.30pm Evensong
Mon	1.00pm "In-house" @ House on t'Rock 7.30pm Youth Central @ Church Hall
Tues	MU—visit to Victoria Wood Expo.@Bury Art Museum 5.00pm Shrove Tuesday : Pancake Evening in Church House
Wed	<b>11.00am</b> Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes <b>7.30pm</b> Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
Thurs	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer 10.00am Tiddlers @ Church House <b>12.45pm</b> Holy Communion
Fri	8.00am Dust Busters <b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer 12.30pm Lunchtime Concert with Hattie Butterworth (cello) and Jasmin Allpress (piano) 4.00pm Choir School 7.00pm Full Choir Practice
Sat	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer

## Next Week: Sunday next before Lent 10 March 2019

<b>8.00am</b> Said Holy Communion
8.45am Parish Breakfast
<b>10.00am</b> Parish Eucharist with Parade and Thanksgiving
5.00pm Office Hour
<b>6.30pm</b> Evensong

### **Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings.**

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar! Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: [bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk) by Wednesday.

## Sunday next before Lent

3rd March 2019

[www.buryparishchurch.com](http://www.buryparishchurch.com)



We welcome you and hope you enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we're on.

We also welcome children in church. If your child gets restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church.

There is a **Hearing Loop** for those who would value it.



**8.00am** Said Holy Communion  
Sunday next before Lent (p 82)

President: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr  
Preaching : Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr

**10.00am** Parish Eucharist and  
Sunday School

President: Julian Heaton, Rector  
Preaching : Julian Heaton, Rector  
Hymns: 2; 248; 304 (omt 3&5);305;396

**Motets:**

W A Mozart : Ave Verum corpus  
Felix Mendelssohn : Above all praise

**6.30pm** Evensong

Minister : Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr  
Preaching : David Foss

**Hymns:** 492; 403; 372  
Psalm 89. 1-18 (pg. 534)  
Exodus 3. 1-6 (pg.47-48)  
John 12. 27-36a (pg. 891)

**Anthem:** Herbert Howells :  
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Serving Bury, deepening our faith, caring for the marginalised, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

## Today's Readings

### The Collect

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.  
**Amen.**

### A reading from the book of Exodus

*(Exodus 34.29-35)*

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke *(Luke 9.28-36)*

### Glory to You, O Lord

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

### Praise to You, O Christ



Jamia Khizra Mosque & Islamic Centre,  
21-25 Parker Street, Bury, BL9 0RJ

**3 March 2019**

Each year local mosques open their doors to invite their neighbours in, to look around, learn a bit about the Moslem tradition and to break down barriers. This mosque (off Rochdale Road) hosted a fantastic visit for our youth club. Would much recommend this to you if you are free: 12 Noon - 6pm.

## Getting into Lent

As we approach Lent, now is a good time to lock into your heart what it is that you are going to do to observe this holy season. In BPC, we offer;

- ◆ Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday
- ◆ Ashing on Ash Wednesday at 11.00am and 7.30pm
- ◆ Study Groups on Wednesdays
- ◆ Morning Prayer Mon, Thurs-Fri-Sat
- ◆ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)



## Lent Study Groups

We will be thinking about our Christian vocation through the film "Les Misérables". The course book "Another Story must begin" is available from House on the Rock. Keep your eye open for more information.



## Dates for your Diary

**5th March at 5.00pm Pancake Evening**

(£2.00 plus donation to Church Urban Fund)

**10th March at 8.40am Parish Breakfast**

(£2.00 plus donation to charity)

**16 March 7.00pm Quiz with meal—Irish Stew**

(£6.00)

*Tickets available today from Keith Sedman or the Church Wardens*

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