



SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2021

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

2nd Sunday of Lent (B): Mark 9: 2-10

I used to see Joe at a regular full meeting and appreciated his occasional input. It was always practical and smacked of varied experience. One day I learnt who he was - a top flight managing director in a multinational Company. It was and wasn't a surprise and continues to be a privilege.

I was diffident about saying something to him about my newly discovered knowledge. He'd have assumed I'd known all along. What I might say could come across as more than a touch naïve or as simple ignorance.

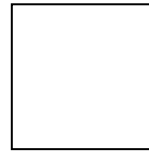
The episode came to mind when thinking about today's Gospel account of The Transfiguration. Jesus' identity, if not clear to Peter, James and John, shook them into a greater appreciation that raised more questions than delights. Though cautioned not to talk to others about what they had seen and heard, they must have discussed it among themselves to try and get a better handle on it. A new world had opened up on that mountain and they were a part of it.

They were told to listen. It was a command. Say nothing, but listen. Want to understand. Take this seriously. Don't think you know best or know it all. You've been pitched into a new learning curve and it's steep.

These three disciples at that time knew less than we know now. And there's our danger. We've lost the immediacy and the awesome power of the Father's words 'Understand all over again who this is - my own beloved Son. So attend to every word he says because he speaks for me - don't miss a syllable. Listen, take it all in. Think before you act. You've got a lot to learn.'

Friends, we're in the process of being formed. Where we are now is temporary. God still has more to say. We're on the way. If we learn from listening, others will notice - admit that we're all watching one another all the time.

Our own identity - the mystery of who we are in God's hands - is evolving. To be christened is to be brought into sharing Christ's life. Most of us were christened some time ago. Whether we're aware of it, or not, God's activity in us is ongoing. Listen to Jesus' words, "If you remain in my word, you are truly my disciples; you will come to know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8: 31-32) What an offer! Don't miss it.



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ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

What do you believe?

SYCAMORE is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance in life today. It gives you space to meet other people on Zoom, share ideas, explore beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Each session involves a short film and plenty of time for discussions. Everyone is welcome.

WHEN? Six Sundays from 21 February - 28 March 2021, 4 pm to 5.15 pm.

What? Welcome and introduction, short film, discussions, feedback

How to join? To get the Zoom link please mail hope@stcharlesrcc.co.uk

Hosted by St Charles RCIA team.

A message from the Pope

Let us not forget that Jesus asked his disciples to pay attention to details.

The little detail that wine was running out at a party.

The little detail that one sheep was missing.

The little detail of noticing the widow who offered her two small coins.

The little detail of having spare oil for the lamps, should the bridegroom delay.

The little detail of asking the disciples how many loaves of bread they had.

The little detail of having a fire burning and a fish cooking as he waited for the disciples at daybreak.

A community that cherishes the little details of love, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelizing environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father's plan.