

TEAMS

Newsletter

For the GB regions
January - March 2023



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Having a man is great
because I always have
someone to gossip to,
and he won't tell anyone
because he wasn't
listening in the first place

Tell us about your team

Send us a profile of your team, any news photos or reflections for the April to June 2023 edition to us by 1st March to: editors@teams.gb.org.uk

Reflections

We are looking for more spiritual counsellors and teams members to write a short reflection on the reading for the team meeting. Would you be able to do this about once a year? Contact the editors.

Changed address? More newsletters needed each time?

Contact your regional couple for any change of postal address or any ongoing change in the number of newsletters your Team needs.

Front cover: Hathersage, Derbyshire.

Letter from Regional Couple

Dear friends in Teams,

We are writing this letter at the end of November 2022. The spirit of the times appears bleak, not only from the politics, the war in Ukraine and the rising cost of living, the short days and dark evenings, but also because there has been a cluster of deaths among many long standing and much loved Teams members and spiritual directors, with many poignant requests on the Prayer Cascade. May they all rest in peace.

Now the season of Advent is upon us bringing with it the promise of hope and expectation of better times ahead.

*“Arise, shine out, for your light has come,
The glory of the Lord is rising on you,
Thought night still covers the earth
And darkness the peoples” (Isaiah 60:1-2)*



This year we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Charter for Teams of Our Lady which was formalised on December 8th 1947, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This was at a time of great difficulty immediately following the Second World War. Down through the past 75 years Teams have provided consolation and joy to members, and continues to do so. Many Teams and sectors will be celebrating this special “Teams Birthday” over the next few weeks.

2023 promises to be a very active year with a lot for Teams GB to think about.

As the New Year begins there is a sense of reawakening and renewal, mirroring the theme of our Re-gathering in April 2023 “New Wine, Fresh Skins.” We hope as many of you as possible will attend this event, the first GB-wide in-person Teams event since 2019, before the pandemic. It will be a unique opportunity to revitalise our commitment to Teams, our spiritual lives as couples, renew friendships and consider how to support the Teams movement into the future to ensure it remains strong and vibrant, and to be a source of consolation in our present difficult times.

As Southern Regional couple we were happy to contribute to the visit to the UK by Faye and Kevin Noonan, ERI liaison couple for the Eurasia Zone. They were with us for just 24 hours and in that time they were able to meet with the

Epsom 1 Team and representatives of Teams in Guildford. Although the time was short the visit was very pleasurable, and we shared with them our thoughts on Teams in GB as well as getting an insight into their work on ERI. We are grateful to those who made themselves available, joined in the discussion, and made their visit enjoyable.



Kevin and Faye Noonan with members of Guildford teams.

And ...Policies again. You will understand we now live in a world where Health & Safety and other policy areas have a much higher profile than ever before. The Teams movement, in common with other organisations, must respond to this environment. The Province Team has commenced a programme of reviewing Teams policies. Updated versions of the Health & Safety and the Governance Risk Management policies have been placed on the TeamsGB website, and other policies are in the process of being reviewed. If you are organising a Teams event, please make sure you understand Teams policies.

The Christmas season is rapidly approaching and we would like to take this opportunity to wish all Teams members a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

The angel said "I bring you news of great joy. A joy to be shared by the whole people, ...a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2; 10-11)

Peter & Yvonne Newman, Responsible Couple, Teams GB Southern Region



Kevin and Faye Noonan visiting the home of Tony & Pat Banks with teams members from the North West.

ERI visit- Kevin & Faye Noonan

We have been delighted to have a visit from Kevin and Faye Noonan, our liaison couple on the ERI (The Leading Team).

After a week in Ireland, they have been able to visit Teams in the North in the Liverpool area and then in Northampton before coming south to Guildford and Fareham.

We are very grateful to all those who offered Teams hospitality to Kevin and Faye and who shared their experiences of Teams life. They really enjoyed their visit.

Annette and Paul O'Beirne

Responsible Couple, Transatlantic Superregion



Now booking.....21-23 April



*New Wine,
Fresh Skins!*

(Mark 2:22)

Teams GB "Re-Gathering"

Friday, 21 to Sunday, 23 April 2023

Hayes Christian Conference Centre

Swanwick DE55 1AU



Teams Prayer Cascade

Luke 11; 1-13 Now it happened that he was in a certain place praying ..

If you then know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

The Lord prayed to the Father, his prayer was an example to the apostles and to us. He added, "Ask and it will be given". So we know to ask for prayer for our concerns and to support our brothers and sisters in their concerns and prayer requests too.



Our prayer cascade for Teams members in GB reaches 350 – however we know that some people do not receive the messages or know about the cascade. Perhaps Responsible Couples could check at the next Team Meeting if everyone who wishes is listed in the prayer cascade.

Prayer Requests are sent by ordinary email to the registered email address. In early December we sent an administrative message to all addresses. You can only send to the prayer cascade from your email address that is registered on the list; that's part of the security of the system.

If you would like to add or change your email address please send an email to prayercascade@TeamsGB.org.uk or you can use the webform in the Prayer Cascade page of the Teams GB website www.TeamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade

You will know if your address is on the list because you will have received a few prayer request emails during October and November. If you change your email address, you will have to change it in the prayer cascade too.

The prayer cascade uses GoogleGroups – the address to send your prayer request to is TeamsPrayers@googlegroups.com. Please name the person or intention in the subject line. Please just send a short email. And sign it giving your name, Team name and sector or town.

Please observe the protocol to use the prayer cascade only for prayer requests from your Teams members in GB. So, it is not to be used for other promotions, or requests for solidarity, or for campaigns of any sort, or for Teams administration.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact your sector or regional couple or email prayercascade@TeamsGB.org.uk

Paul and Annette O' Beirne

Responsible Couple, Transatlantic Superregion

Organising Teams Events

We live in a world where health and safety has a much higher profile than in the past, and this is true for Teams also. Teams need to respond to this environment by ensuring we have the right policies in place. We also need to look at what events are covered by Teams insurance, and what are the responsibilities of householders. Most of our Teams meetings are held in the homes of Teams members and are essentially meetings of friends. Naturally, you will want everybody coming into your home to be safe and comfortable and you will make every effort to ensure that this is the case. It is very rare for anyone to have any sort of incident, but so that you are clear, we are summarising the Teams position with regards to insurance. And it is important to remember that you are only expected to do what you would normally do for any visitors.

The Province (that is Teams GB) has insurance to cover our risk in organising events. This covers Sectors, Regions and the Province organising events, and events in hired or borrowed premises. Events in your own homes or gardens are not covered by Teams insurance because they are regarded as social events. However, your own home insurance should cover visitors to your home.

If you are arranging a meeting out, such as a picnic in a park, any problems with the location you are using, would be the responsibility of the owner of the venue. You will, of course, be careful that hazards are avoided or pointed out, as you would going for a picnic with friends. However, if you do you should be covered by Teams insurance. Parents will be responsible for the children that come with them at all times.

We have a document on the TeamsGB website entitled "Guidelines for Organising Events" ([add weblink here](#)) which includes a little more detail about meetings at home and what to think about. However, the key point that you should keep in mind is that you need to do what you would reasonably expect to do for the safety and wellbeing of any visitors to your home. Accidents are very rare and sensible precautions will prevent the need to worry.

Dom & Chris Thomson

GB Treasurers

Profile of Banbury 3 Team

Who are your team members?

4 couples married between 12 and 20 years with 14 children between us. We are a multinational team comprising 3 nationalities - British, French & Brazilian. We are often joined by Fr. John Peyton, Parish Priest of St John the Evangelist & St Joseph the Worker, Banbury.



When and how did your team start?

Our Team began as a pilot in 2018 as a year with our mentors Kevin & Margaret Quinn of Banbury Team 2.

How has it changed over the years?

We welcomed a fourth couple in 2019. It brought greater balance and allowed us to deepen our faith further.

Tell us the things you have learned

How to verbalise out Faith. The importance of fellowship. We are all in the same boat, sharing and supporting joys and sorrows.

How would you describe your Team in three words?

Reliable. Friendly. Prayerful.

What does your Team do well?

Pray for each other.

Team retreat to Monastery of Mount St Bernard, Coalville, Leics.



What is the best thing about marriage?

Facing challenges together and enjoying the good moments through living the Sacrament.

Benedict & Agnes Hume, Banbury 3 Team

Middlesbrough Team Retreat Madonna House



The quaint cottages were bathed in sunlight as the team began to arrive at this quiet haven: Madonna House at Robin Hoods Bay, a small fishing village in North Yorkshire. Our team, Middlesbrough 1, of four couples and Fr Phil, had very few full physical team meetings over the last couple of years, certainly no physical retreat. This was special, we were all together for a full day, also, we had no idea what the theme would be. We were in the capable hands of Fr Michael, Jeanne, and Mathieu – belonging to the Madonna house community. www.madonnahouse.org

We discovered the house had many rooms; some for meeting and some for resting, tables were pushed together for eating, and the small Chapel was simply divine. Other spaces (inside and out) were set aside as Poustinia – a place for solitary prayer and contemplation. The community, based in Canada, have been in the Middlesbrough diocese since 1985.

I was eager to know where the day was heading, and what we would learn, my Bible, pencil and notebook were waiting in a carrier bag. We gathered in a room that doubled as a library; how I wanted to look and see what they had. After introductions, the community began to share their experience/ the ethos of Madonna house (founded by Catherine Doherty in 1947). Fr Michael began with a profound statement, that Jesus spent nine-tenths of his life in Nazareth, keeping the Jewish and Roman law, living as a family, His working material was wood – something He was to die upon.

There is an important shift here, to see the effectiveness of prayer through the ordinary tasks of life: washing, ironing, and chopping wood (you can add more). The prayer that rises through the acceptance of these tasks as a joyful undertaking, will rest as blessings, somewhere in the world that they are needed – which requires not our choosing.

Our joy was to be emersed in the ethos of this simple community. Retreating from the busyness, to encounter holiness in the ordinary – a mystery that may be experienced – not easily explained. A blessing, to be received and lived. There was an opportunity for confession and Mass together in the Chapel was most special. Each one of us takes away something different. Some fruits of the day are in the words overleaf.



John Pearson, Middlesbrough 1 Team

It is I Lord

It is I Lord, in the quiet of my cell
The place where heart and soul do dwell.
Searching for me, and finding You
Seeing my desires, in all that You do.
Listening, not speaking
Often, not thinking.
Actively resting in life's busyness
Without fear, or shyness.
Knowing You are there with no need of my wake
Though taking delight in each step that I take.



Middlesbrough team at Madonna House



Reverse St Francis Prayer

Lord make me a channel of your disturbance.
Where there is apathy, let me provoke,
Where there is silence, may I be a voice.
Where there is too much comfort, and too little action, Grant disruption;
Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, Grant me the willingness to listen..
When laws dictate and pain is overlooked, Grant me the willingness to listen...
When tradition speaks louder than need, Grant me the willingness to listen.
Disturb us, O lord, teach us to be radical.
Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it;
To be with as well as for the poor;
To love the unlovable as well as the lovely;
To touch the passion of Jesus in the pain of those we meet;
To accept responsibility to be church
Lord Make me a channel of your disturbance.

Author Unknown

Remembering Philip Manser

Our Team was so shocked to lose Phillip, 73, so suddenly and unexpectedly to a stroke last month. Only the previous week we had met with him for dinner with the Esher Catenians on the Tuesday and as a Team on the Wednesday and he was his usual jovial self, full of conversation and interest in other people.

Philip and Dominique were Sector Couple for Surrey North sector for five or six years until a couple of years ago.

Phillip will be remembered for many things: his love of cycling and fast cars; his love of personal fitness and his youthful looks; the generous gift of his time managing premises for both the Our Lady of Lourdes parish and St. Paul's school; his support of HCPT over many years on pilgrimages to Lourdes; and of course his devotion to Dominique, his wife, three children and eight grandchildren. We already miss him dearly; a great friend and lovely gentleman.



Alan Burton



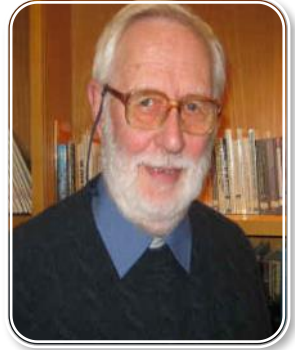
Remembering Richard Heron

Please pray for Richard Heron of Northampton St. Anne Team who died 1 November 2022.

Remember, too, Richard's wife Lorna and all their family. A fuller tribute to Richard will be provided in the next Newsletter.

Remembering Fr Ken Payne

Baptised Anglican while yet infant, a young Ken Payne studied Applied Mathematics, Logic, and Scientific Methodology at Hull University, there also meeting a Catholic girl whom he engaged to marry. Their relationship triggered a spiritual search that, with her encouragement, led him into the Catholic Church in 1950. Alas, his poor intended! Somewhere amid subsequently pursuing a Diploma in Education, then service in the Royal Air Force, he heard his call to the priesthood. His training in Paris begot fluency in French (a boon to all his later dealings with the international Teams Movement), and he was ordained a priest of Northampton Diocese in 1960, serving parishes in Northampton, Bedford, and Aylesbury. In time, Father Ken enjoyed the distinction unusual for a Catholic priest of presiding at the wedding of his former fiancée! She and her husband remained his very good lifelong friends until she died about 7 or 8 years ago.



Father Ken's wise and generous labour for Teams GB spanned almost 30 years beginning early in 1994 when, as Administrator of Northampton's Cathedral Parish of Our Lady Immaculate and St. Thomas of Canterbury, he organised information evenings that culminated in two Teams under his own spiritual guidance. Of these, Northampton 4 Team continues to this day.

Father Ken always promoted and championed Teams for married couples, including—or you might say, given his own experience, especially—couples wedded

together from different Christian traditions, so that any spiritual benefits to marriage from Teams might flow as widely and liberally as God deems to bestow the sacrament itself. Father Ken saw so-called "mixed couples" enriching both Teams and the whole Christian community alike, and among the founding couples he attracted to Northampton 4 were Antony and Janet Denman, who themselves have contributed immensely to the Movement, particularly in this area of witness.

The October 1994 National Gathering of Teams of Our Lady at Thomas Becket School in Northampton thrust Father Ken and all the Northampton 4 Team into the Teams Movement's wider activities. From then, Father Ken began serving as South Midlands Sector Chaplain to various Sector Couples, including the Denmans and Paul and Helena McCloskey, until 1999.

Father Ken left Northampton in 1999 for St. Aidan's Parish at Little Chalfont after his father, who had lived with him at the Cathedral House, died. Stepping down as Chaplain for Northampton St. Thomas, but keen to sow Teams in his new parish, he piloted the Little Chalfont team, one of whose couples later departed to study Married Spirituality at an outpost of an American University in Austria—a very special university that accepted only married couples. Invited across by the ex-Little Chalfont couple to talk about Teams, Father Ken single-handedly launched four English-speaking teams there.

Father Ken's links to the wider Movement blossomed. From 1999 to 2003, he assisted GB Regional Couple Mick and Nora Courtney as Regional Chaplain. At the International Gathering in Santiago de Compostela in 2000, he befriended keynote speaker Jack Dominian, especially upon discovering

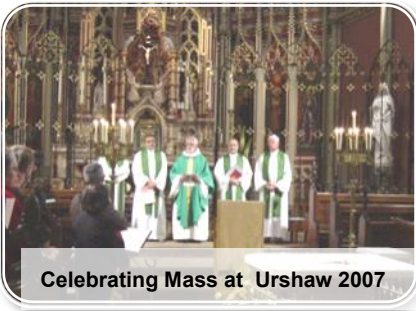
Jack and his wife were near neighbours of Little Chalfont. He travelled to Trinidad in 2001 for the Teams Holiday Session, and to Rome for the first Regional Couples' meeting in 2003, as did Paul and Helena McCloskey, then pre-regional couple for Central Britain when GB was splitting into three Regions.

On becoming the first Trans-Atlantic Super-Regional Couple in 2006, Paul and Helena sought Father Ken for their Super-Regional Chaplain, which he only ceded to Canon John Udris when Paul and Helena also passed their mantle to Antony and Janet Denman in 2010. As Super-Regional Chaplain, Father Ken attended the ERI College and the International Gathering in Lourdes in 2006, then the 2007 ERI College at Durham hosted by the new Trans-Atlantic Super-Region comprising GB, Ireland, and Trinidad & Tobago. Carlo and Maria-Carla Volpini, the International Leading Couple appointed at the previous year's International Gathering, thought it salutary for the College members to meet local Teams couples. It stunned them to find all three GB Regional Couples and the Irish Regional Couple conversant to various degrees in French; and the local teams, ably orchestrated by Tom and Maureen Hoban and Peter and Di Wordsworth, put on a great show, to such extent that meeting local Teams is now integral to all College meetings. Paul and Helena continue to cherish a 2008 trip with Father Ken visiting his Austrian Teams with their Rome-affiliated Eastern Rite Chaplains; and thereby the special joy of an offer home from Sunday's main celebrant for Sunday lunch with his wife and three children.

Fr. Bernard Barlow, Elaine Cogavin (ERI member from Ireland) and Fr Ken at Urshaw



In the past year Father Ken was Chaplain to a new Team for widows that meets via Zoom. In everything, he gave good advice and prayerful leadership, opened home and parish hall alike for Team meetings, and extensively supported Responsible Couples at every level.



All this unstinting Teams service alone would make Father Ken remembered and celebrated, but anyone blessed to know him saw so much more. He authored many books on religious themes, including a novel; his book *Shades of Welcome* on hospitality for the stranger fruitfully tackles an issue relevant and prevalent in today's world, and reminds of Father Ken's outreach and

welcome to friends around the world. His friendship with Father Richard Ho Lung, the founder of Missionaries of the Poor that aids the very poorest in Kingston, Jamaica, in Nairobi, and in the Philippines, led to his position as chief sponsor of the Society's UK Supporters' Association (MoPSA), a post wholly chiming with Father Ken's philosophy of life and unwavering compassion for the poor and the outcast.

If "Live Simply" was Father Ken's motto, the engine for all his activities was prayer. He prayed an hour every morning. A third of his book *Encounters*, memories of his life story, deals with ways of praying, listing methods he himself used and spiritual writers who inspired him. An inspirational leader of retreats, his prayers at all meetings, all meals, and even plain and simple encounters enriched the lives of those privileged to spend time with him. He will be greatly missed.

Compiled from recollections by Nora Courtney, Paul and Helena McCloskey, and Antony and Janet Denman November 2022

Why not make a donation to the Missionaries of the Poor in Father Ken's memory?

Visit <https://mopsa.org.uk/>

January Team meeting

Acts 10:34-38 God had anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all people. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Psalm 28(29):1-4,9-10

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, thank you that you don't have favourites and love each one of us. When we are tempted to see differences help us not to judge others but see each other as you see them. May we promote peace and not division. Amen.

January Reflection

None of us think that we are prejudiced. However, if we scratch beneath the surface we often realise that we have preconceived ideas of how things should be. We sometimes try to put God in a box that is manageable and acceptable and fits in with our views.

God's love is boundless and surprising and often challenges these preconceptions. In the early church followers had difficulty coming to understand and accept that non-Jews could become followers of Jesus and that God gave his Holy spirit to Gentiles. It is natural and understandable for a people who had been told that they were the chosen race. To find out that anyone and everyone can receive God's gift could have made them less special. It is only when we completely let God's love into our lives that we recognise that we are special, no less and no more than the billions of others that God has created. Instead of being threatening this becomes liberating. The result in the early church was that the good news of Jesus spread far and wide.

As we start a new year it may be worth reflecting on how God challenged our views in the past year? Where do we place a limit on God's love and action in our lives? Do we feel threatened by others? What stops us from fully accepting God's love and knowing how special we are?



February Team Meeting

Matthew 5:1-12

How happy are the poor in spirit

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

Psalm 145(146):6-10(Lord6)

How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion’s God, from age to age.

Concluding prayer

Lord we thank you for all the blessings you give us, both when we can see them and when we can’t. May we live the beatitudes in our marriage and our daily life and experience the fruits of your seeing love in action.

February reflection

I love the archaeology of words. If we dig down into that word 'happy', or more accurately 'blessed', we get to the Hebrew word 'ashrei'. It conveys movement. 'Ashurim' is the Hebrew word for 'steps.' So 'happy' are those who are in motion, on the move, making progress, moving towards their goal. One Biblical commentator has translated this word as 'underway.' So the beatitudes describe the kinds of the people moving towards the Kingdom. Or rather those in whom the Kingdom is already underway. The blessed are those who are making progress, on the way to ultimate blessedness. There is a deliberate direction, a definite orientation to their lives. They are moving Godward. They are heavenward bound. For a better perspective on this it might be helpful to ponder its opposite. Unhappy are those whose lives have stalled, come to a standstill, ground to a halt, and are going nowhere. Aimlessness leads to unhappiness.

Can we apply all this to our lives as couples? And to our understanding and experience of what constitutes a happy, healthy, wholesome marriage? We can consider the Beatitudes as a blueprint for a happy partnership. The 'poverty of spirit' they describe is the felt knowledge of your need of each other. The 'gentleness' they describe is an essential dimension of the healthy way

you relate to each other. The 'purity of heart' they describe is a vital ingredient of any wholesome relationship. In that way the Beatitudes provide both the route and the essential equipment for your pilgrim way. They are a beautiful portrait not only of the disciple but of a happy couple. They contain some of the secrets of a faithful and fulfilled marriage. In this way they may serve as an examination of conscience for you as a couple. Perhaps even the subject for a sit-down? Let's not forget the 'you' of the Beatitudes is in the plural. They plot a pathway to holiness together.



Fr John Udris, Northampton

March Team Meeting

Reflection: Matthew 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun

Jesus took with him, Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Psalm 32:4-5,18-20,22

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, when times are difficult may we remember the times of inspiration and vision in our lives. When we are awe struck save us from always feeling that we need to comment but to allow you to fill us with your love and wonder. Amen.

March Reflection

Before this part of the Gospel, Jesus had been sharing with the apostles what it would be like if they followed Him – ‘You must take up your cross you must renounce yourself and follow Me.’ There is no point in gaining the whole world if it ruins your life.

It was 6 days after this that Jesus led Peter, James and John up a high mountain – Tabor. The three probably wondered where He was leading them – no doubt each of us would have wondered the same. We may have wondered that, too, in our own lives – where on earth is God leading me? What am I doing? Why am I doing this?

Jesus was transfigured – completely changed – and then to cap it all Moses and Elijah appeared. Both Moses and Elijah had had ‘mountain encounters’ with God and they now recognised something special about Jesus.

Reading through this story again I am struck by the fact that Jesus did most of His important things with other people present – especially Peter, James and John. It is a good lesson for us to realise and accept how important partners, family and friends are to us. Jesus shows us that even though He believed He was one with the Father, He still wanted others around Him. We see Him in different times with His friends including the Last Supper, in the Garden of Gethsemane and at the wedding at Cana. We are no different – we want and need those close to us around us in good and bad times.

This week’s Gospel is really a mixture – it shows Jesus in His triumph – transfigured and with two ‘celebrities’ of the Old Testament, but it is also a preface to the tragedy that is going to follow when He reaches Jerusalem.

Some people have difficulty believing that they are loved by God. For Jesus this being loved by God was essential – it was the reason that He could do what He was sent to do, even when His best friends let Him down.

If we believe that God loves us then when our partners, family, friends or colleagues let us down then we know that we will be ok because God loves each one of us as we are. No wonder then that we can all be transfigured – when we know we are loved so much! Maybe today it might be a good idea to tell our loved ones that we love them.

Sr Margaret Mattison, Warrington 1 Team



**GOD'S VISION FOR
YOUR LIFE IS
BIGGER THAN YOUR
DREAMS.**

Last notes...

The Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-56)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
and my spirit exults in God my Saviour,
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
for the almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is His name,
and His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear Him.

He has shown the power of His arm.

He has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.
The hungry He has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy
According to the promise He made to our ancestors
of His mercy to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Our Lady of the Home, pray for us.



Wife: "I'm not talking to you!"

Husband: "OK."

Wife: "Don't you want to know why?"

Husband: "No, I respect and trust your decision!"

*Book now for Teams
regathering
1-23 April 2023*

<https://teams.gb.org.uk/2023-regathering-booking-form/>

