

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD – 24th January 2021

Pope Francis wanted “a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people” (*Misericordia e misera*, 7). It takes place during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, emphasising the important bond we have in Sacred Scripture with other Christian denominations and religious traditions.

Pope Francis invites us to find “ways to mark this Sunday with a certain Solemnity” (*Aperuit illis* 3). Perhaps we can invite people at home to take out their family Bible this day and have it open in an honoured place in their home before them, with a candle beside it.

WOULD YOU LISTEN TO HIM? The Transfiguration: Matthew 17

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”

Reflection The Transfiguration of Jesus gives us a glimpse of the glory of the kingdom. It helps us to rise above our human weakness and to live in hope and a sense of possibility with the reality of the cross in our daily lives. There is a strong emphasis in God’s Word about listening – let us listen together with open hearts and minds.

Would you listen to him when he says nice things to you - ‘Do not be afraid’ (Mt 14:28)– ‘You are the salt of the earth’ (Mt 5:13) or ‘You are the light of the world’ (Mt 5:14) – You are worth more than hundreds of sparrows’ (Mt 10:31) – would you listen and take them to heart?

Would you listen to him when he says hard things to you - about the hungry and the needy - ‘give them something to eat yourselves’ (Mt

14:16) – ‘give to anyone who asks’ (Mt 5:42) – or about forgiveness ‘not seven I tell you but seventy seven times’ (Mt 18:22) or ‘love your enemies’ (Mt 5:44) – or ‘Why did you doubt? (Mt 14:32) - would you listen and respond?

Would you listen to Him when he says words of hope to you – ‘anyone who loses their life for my sake will find it’ (Mt 16:25) – ‘where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them’ (Mt 18:20) – ‘the last will be first, and the first, last’ (Mt 20:16) - ‘Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them’ (Mt 5:7) – would you listen and let Him transform you?

Song: Listen (Aniceto Nazareth) (available on the Bonnybrook Parish You Tube channel)