

A man with a beard, wearing a dark jacket, stands with his back to the camera, looking out at the ocean during a sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue. In the background, other people are visible, some sitting on the rocks and others standing, all silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 2020

# Listen to him

# Second Sunday of Lent

## From the Readings

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house for the land I will show you. *Genesis 12:1*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God ... *2 Timothy 1:8*

Jesus was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and suddenly from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' *Matthew 17:5*

## Reflections

**Enlightenment** is a matter of coming to see life – to see ourselves – differently. It transforms us from average, everyday kinds of people to people with a purpose in life. A moment of Enlightenment comes from outside ourselves and transforms us. It is not a plan; it's a happening. It fills us with new light. It astounds those around us to see us change our lives so suddenly, so totally. And, in the end, it changes the focus, the direction, the very centre of our lives. Enlightenment requires complete abandonment of past certainties so that new possibilities can become possible.

*Joan Chittister, Our Holy Yearnings, 96-97.*

**Falling in love with God ...** human hearts are fashioned for this to happen. Nor does it mean loving the world less, and the people in it. It means we love them more. Whenever we love sensitively,



passionately and faithfully, we are already in love with God, Entwined with the heart of God, our love now has no fear in it.

*Daniel O'Leary, Unmasking God, 15.*

**The quality of your faith** will be judged by the quality of justice in the land; and the quality of justice in the land will be judged by how the weakest and most vulnerable groups in society ('widows, orphans, and strangers') fared while you were alive.

*Ronald Rolheiser, Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity.*

### Jesus calls Himself the Way — A Road

Jesus, as disciple-maker, calls himself the Way, *hodos*, a road.

The road is something you can walk on;  
it gets you from here to there.

Jesus is such a path.

The passing from depth to depth on the way into his heart corresponds to a passing from depth to depth in our own heart, where "heart" means the core of our existence, not just the seat of the affection.

We can walk on this road which is Jesus,  
first by petitioning him,  
then by studying him,  
later by imitating him,  
and by dialoguing with him.

*Beatrice Bruteau, Radical Optimism, 94.*



## For Thinking and Talking

1. From these readings and reflections, what words, phrases and insights stand out for you?
2. **Imagine** being with Peter, James and John, as they glimpse Jesus at prayer and hear the Father's words. Imagine those words spoken to you.
3. **Express** a hope or intention for the future.

## Closing Prayer

God of Courage,  
today I place my hand in your hand.  
As I journey through Lent,  
I will trust in your guidance. Amen.

*Adapted from Joyce Rupp, Inviting God In, 104.*



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

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