

Reader's notes

*'IN THE SCRIPTURES,
BY THE SPIRIT,
MAY WE SEE THE SAVIOURS FACE,
HEAR HIS WORD AND
HEED HIS CALLING,
KNOW HIS LOVE AND
GROW IN GRACE.'*

2nd Sunday of Lent Year A

Readings

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/readings/?feature=sunday>

*The link to the readings is a temporary one, it will bring you to the correct readings **only** for the week leading up to the Sunday in question. (its a copyright thing)*

Notes: <https://www.tarsus.ie/page-72/page-86/>

The Gospel :

MT 17:1-9

Early in their following of Jesus, a few disciples get a privileged revelation of who Jesus is and how he fulfils their tradition.

First Reading,

Gn:12: 1-4a

Abram, whose name will soon become Abraham, is the first person in a new era to hear and respond to God. So everything that happens to him is a kind of prototype of the life of faith. And today's passage is really the first encounter between Abram and God. Abram was prosperous in land and livestock, but he had no children, and that, to people of his time, is the most serious of all possible deprivations. So God's first words to him are quite daring:

Leave what you have and I'll give you what you want.

When God says "I will make of you a great nation," the meaning is that God will create a great race out of the descendants of Abram (although it seems there are to be no such descendants naturally). But God's requirements are absolute, "Go forth from the land of your kin." The requirements are to become even more absolute when, after Abraham finally has a son, God asks him to sacrifice that same son (see the second reading at the [Easter Vigil, Genesis 22:1-18.](#))

Proclaiming It: This is a straightforward story about a very difficult decision. Make God's call in the first sentence sound as demanding as it is. (Remember receiving your draft notice? This was a much bigger deal than that.) Make God's promise (not just an heir to this childless man, but a **nation** of descendants!) sound rich and extravagant. Make your voice expansive. And finally, when you say "Abram went as

the Lord directed him," make it sound matter-of-fact, as if Abram hesitated not at all.

A Theological Reflection: Proclaimed thus, this becomes a prototype of the life of faith: God asks us to leave the bad and the good for the unknown better, and we should simply go.

Second Reading,

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Our Liturgical Setting: This passage has some Lenten themes: bearing hardship for the gospel, being saved and called to holiness not on our merits but by grace, and the destruction of death and advent of immortality. The phrase "manifest through the appearance of our savior" may be a reference to today's gospel, [Matthew 17:1-9](#). That is the story of Jesus' transfiguration, traditionally read on the second Sunday of Lent.

Proclaiming It: It's hard to make a case for any particular oral interpretation. You might decide by asking which, if any, of these themes resonate in your own heart, or describe your own journey of faith:

- Bearing hardship for the sake of the gospel
- Feeling called not because of your own good works, but by undeserved grace
- Feeling drawn into Jesus as if from before time began
- Facing death but hoping for immortality, a share in the resurrection

Having personalised the reading, perhaps, you can proclaim it with confidence that your listeners have the opportunity to do the same.

Next Readers Session: March 25th 11 am