

Scripture Reflection: Pentecost 24

Easter to Pentecost: Listening to the word of Jesus.

It may seem strange at this time between Easter and Pentecost to think of the feast of the Transfiguration. During this miraculous event, Peter James and John heard a voice from Heaven say "This my son, the Beloved. Listen to him" (Mark 9:7). Its not often in the scriptures we have actual words of God recorded and so we pay great attention to them. The voice was saying that God loves and gives his authority to Jesus and approves of his teaching and example. As potential leaders of the early Church the three disciples were given the special privilege of hearing this command and witnessing Jesus in his glorified state.

The time after Jesus' ascension into heaven must have left them desolate. It was a time of great confusion and anxiety for the disciples of Jesus as they awaited together, praying and in close fellowship for the arrival of the Holy Spirit. They did not know what this "arrival" meant in reality, but they obeyed Jesus' instructions and remained close and waited. Perhaps Peter, James and John remembered the heavenly voice commanding them to obey Jesus' words. They stayed together in prayer and so they waited.

Words of scripture are important to us today as they can help and guide us particularly when we are facing difficult times and our world seems in chaos. We can turn to these words of God and listen to his command: listen to the teachings of Jesus and follow his example, all will be well.

For us trying to lead a life as a follower of Jesus, there are many pressures from the values of the society we live in. There maybe conflicting choices to make and guidance and reflection is needed. There may seem to be a lot of confusion and noise. The words from Mark's gospel should be a guide to call us back to the right decisions. "This is my son, the Beloved: listen to *him*".

We can take heart from the example of Pope Francis who was called to lead a church in confusion and conflict. His answer was to return back to our roots, to the love and example of Jesus and establish the dignity and respect of humanity. He returned to Jesus' words to Peter after the resurrection: "Peter do you love me? Tend my sheep and feed my lambs". These words cut through all the conflict and noise and established a clear authentic leadership for the Church today as it was for Peter two thousand years ago. "This is my son, the Beloved. Listen to *him*."

St John Fisher



Bishop ,Martyr (1469-1535)

"A good man is not a perfect man: a good man is an honest man, faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life."

"Beware of those prophets who speak unto you and deceive you! They prophecy nothing but the imaginations and forgings of their own minds and not the truth of Holy Scripture"

"Christian people, I am come hither to die for the faith of Christ's Catholic Church"

(Only bishop to refuse to support Henry VIII divorce from Catherine of Aragon.)

St Thomas More said of St John Fisher:

"I reckon in this realm, no one man, in wisdom and learning and long approved virtue together, meet to be matched and compared with him."

**Quarant'ore – 40 Hours of Adoration,
St. Bede Church**

Leading up to the Feast of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Wednesday 5th June

9.30am – Holy Mass and Opening of Quarant'ore

10.00am - Private Adoration

12noon – Holy Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart

12.30pm – Private Adoration

3pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet

6pm – Holy Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart

6.30pm - Private Adoration

9pm – Holy Mass and Closing of Exposition

Thursday 6th June

9.30am – Holy Mass and Opening of Quarant'ore

10.00am – Private Adoration

12noon – Holy Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart

12.30pm – Private Adoration

3pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet

6pm – Holy Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart

6.30pm - Private Adoration

9pm – Holy Mass and Closing of Exposition

Friday 7th June (Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

9.30am –Opening of Quarant'ore

10.00am – Private Adoration

12noon – Holy Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart

12.30pm - Private Adoration

3pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet

6pm – Holy Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart

6.30pm – Private Adoration

7.30pm – Feast Day Holy Mass and Closing of Quarant'ore