Second Sunday of Lent

I want to invite you to think about Holy Week. We are just four weeks away from Palm Sunday.

Holy Week is the most important week of the Church's year. The Liturgy of Holy Week offers us a chance of meeting Christ.

In the Old Testament God called Abraham, already an old man, to leave his own country and set out on a long journey towards the promised land. Holy Week too is a journey, as we accompany Jesus on the road to Calvary.

I am not asking you to leave home and country, but I am asking you to set aside time, so that you can really enter into this coming Holy Week.

Jesus took Peter, James and John up to a high mountain where they could be alone. We have just heard St Matthew's account of what happened there. It is clear that Matthew is struggling to find words to describe the indescribable.

"His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light."

They see the two great figures of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Then, overcome with awe and wonder, they hear the voice of God himself." This is my Son, the Beloved....Listen to him." Matthew tries to describe that moment, but no words are adequate.

These three men have had an unforgettable experience.

They have caught a glimpse of the Glory of God revealed in the face of Jesus.

The Liturgy of Holy Week cannot compare with Mount Tabor and the wonder of the Transfiguration, But it can allow us to draw closer to that same Jesus.

On Palm Sunday we retrace Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. We acclaim him as the Messiah, but are we prepared to keep faith with him in the days ahead?

On Maundy Thursday evening we share in the Lord's Supper as we celebrate the Eucharist. In the washing of the feet we see how Christ makes himself our servant and invites us to serve one another. After Mass, at the altar of Repose we join the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane.

On Good Friday we come together for a very simple, if solemn, service to listen again to the Passion of Our Lord according to St John, to pray for the Church and the World, to venerate the figure of Jesus on the Cross, and to receive the Living Christ in Holy Communion.

Sadly the most important Liturgy of the year is the least well attended in Holy Week.

The Easter Vigil marks the triumph of Christ's Resurrection. Starting in the darkness we bless the new fire.

We light the Easter Candle, the symbol of the Risen Lord.

We listen again to some of the key events of our history starting with the story of creation.

We renew the promises made at Baptism.

We are sprinkled with newly blessed Easter water, and we celebrate the victory of God's love in the First Mass of Easter.

I cannot promise that you will see what Peter, James and John saw on the mountain, but I can promise that if you make the time to take part in this Liturgical journey from Palm Sunday to Easter, You will be richly blessed by God.

After the Transfiguration Jesus came and touched the disciples..."and when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus." Please God, our celebration of Holy Week will allow us to do the same, to see Jesus in a new way, and respond to his call: "Come, Follow me."