

## Transfiguration

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Father in heaven,  
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured  
before chosen witnesses on the holy mountain,  
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem:  
give us the strength to so hear his voice and bear our cross,  
that in the world to come we may see him as he is.

Our text may be found in the gospel according to Luke, chapter 9 and verse 35

**'This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him.'**

Thursday, Diana's funeral; Saturday, a wedding in a Chateau near Combourg,  
today, the baptism of little Clotilde whose parents, Martin and Clémence, I  
married here in St Bart's on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2015.

And today, August 6<sup>th</sup>, is the feast of the Transfiguration. Jesus with Peter, James  
and John have walked up a mountain and, there, Jesus is transfigured. His clothes  
and face are radiant with light. Moses and Elijah appear to them and there is talk  
of what will happen in Jerusalem. Then, out of a cloud, the voice of God is heard  
speaking what is our text today: **'This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him.'**  
Normality returns and the three, for the present, keep quiet about what has just  
happened.

The Transfiguration is an impressive event that confirms who Jesus is and what Jesus is before he goes up to Jerusalem to be arrested, tried and crucified; before, on the third day, he rises from the dead and, forty days on, ascends into heaven. Peter, James and John are fortunate to witness the event and only share what has happened well after the event. For us as Christians, it is another insight into the true nature and character of the Son of God, our Saviour Jesus Christ, a transformation that takes place on a holy mountain in the presence of three witnesses to the fact.

And transformation is what I'd like to focus on this morning as we bring to an end the relaunch of our stewardship campaign. Carolyn wrote about it in the July St Barts; Janet spoke about it at the Friends' AGM and finally, this morning, let me restate how vitally important proper stewardship is to our church.

Without you, without us, without you and me, St Barts is just a building. The real church is not only a place but a community and we make up that community. We enjoy the heritage of the past and the future of our church rests partly on us. Are we sufficiently committed and responsible to make our presence positively felt here and now for the good of those who are to come? It's not only a financial commitment but it is also a question of how we use our time, effort and talents for the good of St Bart's.

And what each one of you personally do, can have an effect even after you leave if you are willing to leave St Barts something in your will. How kind a thought to remember us and be remembered after moving on.

So today, on the feast of the Transfiguration, may I urge you to be transformed even as Martin and Clémence have been, transformed by their marriage and the birth of little Clotilde, by being a faithful Christian steward, by making St Bart's, by what you do and what you give, a church that will flourish not only in the present but in the future too.

I have spoken in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.

*Preached at the Eucharist*

*St Bartholomew's, Dinard*

*6<sup>th</sup> August, 2017*

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