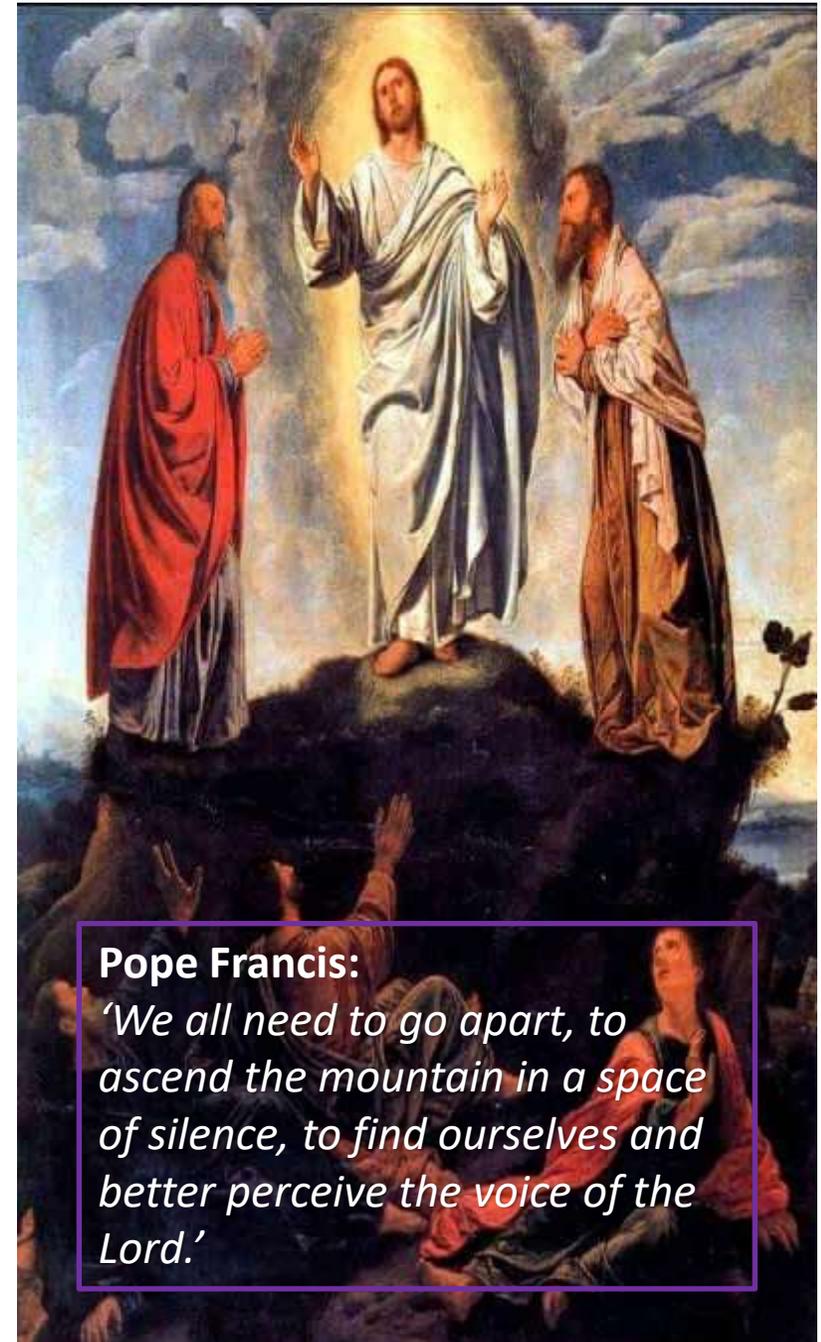


Theme: Lent 2 ... Encountering God On High

Many years ago, having just summited Mont Blanc with a friend of mine, we were descending and stopped for a 5 minute rest at the top of a cliff face. We were just sat on the edge, dangling our legs over, and taking in the view for 5 minutes or so. It was then he cut through the silence by asking me, "So, you're a Catholic right ... so what do you think happens to you when you die?" Somewhat taken aback by the timing of this question (and bearing in mind he had never asked me anything about my faith in the years I had known him) from my atheist friend, I didn't say anything at first. But then I saw him crying and he said, "My dad's dying of cancer and I just wondered..." It was then, I told what I believed and we said a prayer for his dad. It was perhaps the strangest place that I'd ever had a conversation about matters of faith. But that day, for those minutes, through prayer there was an encounter with God ... and strangely on a mountain!

One does not have to climb mountains to encounter God. We simply just have to be willing to meet with Him. The time and place will not always be of our choosing. But in these difficult times, prayer has been a place that many of us have turned to in order to seek Him and ask for His help. So this week, we will focus on the different ways that we, as a community, can encounter God.

[Mr Doust]



Pope Francis:

'We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord.'

Scripture:

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched, Jesus was changed. His clothes became shining white, whiter than any person could make them. Then two men appeared, talking with Jesus. The men were Moses and Elijah.

Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good that we are here. We will put three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, because he and the others were so frightened. Then a cloud came and covered them. A voice came from the cloud. The voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Obey him!"

Then Peter, James, and John looked around, but they saw only Jesus there alone with them.

As Jesus and his followers were walking back down the mountain, he commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about the things you saw on the mountain. Wait till the Son of Man rises from death. Then you may tell."

So the followers obeyed Jesus and said nothing about what they had seen. But they discussed what Jesus meant about rising from death.

Prayer:

Father, I ask that You would give me a hunger for prayer. Help me to focus on You alone.

Come into the centre of my every activity, and remove those things that keep me from encountering You.

Capture my heart, and reveal Yourself to me when I am praying alone, and corporately when I am praying together with others.

I want to adore You and be wholly consumed with Your person.

Amen