

Stewardship link

Stewardship invites us to look at all the gifts that God has given us. These include the gifts of others and the gifts of prayer and the Mass.

To do

During our lives, God gives us many gifts. Sometimes we don't recognise them as gifts. Sometimes we are reluctant to accept the gifts that are offered. Sometimes we don't understand the gifts. Sometimes the gift is so special that we want to stay with the moment of receiving the gift.

Try to spend some time each day this week reflecting on the gifts you find in gestures, prayers, feelings, attitudes and other people.

Take some time to note your responses in your notebook.

Diocese of Portsmouth Stewardship Reflection 2nd Sunday of Lent Year C

'It is wonderful for us to be here.'

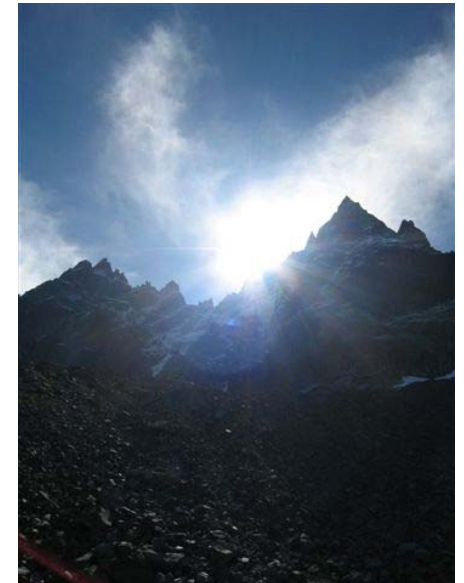
(Luke 9:33)

Opening prayer

Leader:
Let us pray
for the grace to respond
to the Word of God.

Response:
**God our Father,
help us to hear your Son.
Enlighten us with your word,
that we may find the way to
your glory.
Amen.**

(Opening Prayer for Second Sunday of
Lent)



To share

What insights have you had in the last week? Is there something in your notebook that you would like to share with others in the group?

To listen

Luke 9:28-36

To think about

Jesus takes Peter, James and John with him – presumably to pray with him on the mountaintop, though, as on other occasions, it seems that the disciples find themselves flagging and heavy with sleep. And yet even in their half-awake state, they sense something amazing happening. As Jesus carries on praying, the disciples see the results of the encounter with the Father radiating from him in a way they had never seen before. And Peter says, ‘It is wonderful for us to be here.’

In prayer – and most particularly at Mass, we have the opportunity to meet Christ in the Word, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and in each other as we form a holy assembly. But, let’s be honest, sometimes we are ‘half asleep’, perhaps because we are tired at the end of a long week or because we are distracted by other things. We often don’t feel like announcing to the world that it is wonderful to be there!

And yet – just occasionally – something happens and we know that we are on holy ground and in the presence of something – or Someone – way beyond the everyday. Such moments are pure gift. How we respond is our gift to God who has blessed us with these moments.

To reflect on

Try to think of an occasion when your participation in the Mass was a personal ‘mountaintop experience’. Why was this?

How awake are you when it comes to times of prayer? To the Mass?

How open are you to the gifts that might await you in the encounter with God in prayer?



To discuss

How does the Mass form and transform you?

When do you experience it as refreshment?

How does it enable you (and the community) to come back down the ‘mountain’ and take what you have received out into the world?

How can you, and your community, ‘Go in peace to love and serve the Lord’?

Closing prayer

Together:

Lord,

we rejoice that you are our creator and ruler.

**As we call upon your generosity,
renew and keep us in your love.**

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Solemn Blessing for Second Sunday of Lent)