

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 | Phil 3:17-4:1 | Luke 9:28-36

Apparently, there is an old Syrian saying ‘inside the people you know, there is a person you don’t know.’ One of God’s gifts is the grace to keep discovering beautiful things about the people close to us. If you talk to people who have been married for a long time, they will often mention the way their partner surprises them, even after twenty years of sharing the same kitchen sink. Likewise, our children and our friends. If we put them in a box with a label, we can become blind to some unexpected wonders God wants us to see.

Perhaps it was like this for Peter, James and John on the occasion of the transfiguration which we hear about in the Gospel today. By this stage, they have been on the road with Jesus for quite some time. They have seen the storm calmed, the demoniac brought to peace, the woman healed of her hemorrhage, the daughter of Jairus raised to life. They have heard outrageous things. You’d think they’d be getting the picture by now.

The experience on the mountain allows them to understand that they have hardly begun to understand the depth of the mystery of Jesus. A voice from the cloud says ‘this is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.’

This week, as part of Project Compassion, we hear the story of Biru, a young man from the Ho ethnic minority in India. He lives with a disability. But there is so much more to him that needs to be seen. Our support of Caritas Australia has empowered him to become an entrepreneur, to meet his future with pride, confidence and hope. Project Compassion challenges us to see beyond the immediate situation of people such as Biru and discover the person we don’t yet know, to celebrate the possibilities of life ‘for all future generations.’

Both before and after their great experience on the mountain top, Luke’s Gospel reminds us that the disciples still face a challenging road. Life will teach them more and more about Jesus. Let us all be open the lessons of a real relationship with the God of justice and love.