

**13 March 2022**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**International Women's Day**  
**Reflection: Break the Bias**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Today's liturgy invites us to follow Jesus, God's Chosen One. By his teaching and preaching he restored the dignity of the poor, the outcasts of society and the oppressed, especially women. As we celebrate Women's Day we appreciate their role in our lives as they transfigure themselves in different ways and are identified as powerful catalysts of change in our society and in the Church.

**READINGS:**

Reading I:                   Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18  
Responsorial Psalm:   27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14  
Reading II:                Philippians 3:17-4:1 Or Philippians 3:20-4:1  
Gospel:                     Luke 9:28b-36

**HOMILY HINTS:**

- When Jesus was transfigured on the mountain, his disciples saw that he was no longer a human being like them; they saw in his transfigured and glorified body a foretaste of our own glorified bodies when we reach heaven.
  
- St. Paul says our citizenship is in heaven, and in time, our Saviour Jesus Christ will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body. Can we start a transformation here and now to meet the essentials of this heavenly realm that we're called to?
  
- In today's world, we have so many biases against other human beings - colour, creed, gender, caste, status, and divisions and polarizations across cities and nations. There were similar biases in Jesus' time too; and Jesus cut across them. He chose his disciples from among the unsophisticated class of Jewish society instead of the so-called learned men – the Pharisees and scribes. He touched and healed the 'unclean and despised' of the society of his time. He called Jewish women who were looked down upon in their own society 'daughters of Abraham'.
  
- Pope Francis, at his New Year's Day 2022 appearances, encouraged people to focus on the good which unites them and to decry violence against women. He said that women, "look at the world not to exploit it but so that it can have life". Whilst commemorating Women's Day today, we need to ask ourselves how much is the effort we are really putting in to restore dignity to our women and other marginalized people as Jesus did.
  
- If we want to be transformed in order to partake of Christ's glory, we must listen to the voice of Jesus, just as Peter and James and John heard the voice of the Father on the mountain asking them to listen to 'his beloved Son, Jesus'. And once we have listened, we must stand firm in the Lord as St. Paul exhorts.
  
- The transfiguration experience is also a reminder that glory and cross are both realities. There are moments in our lives when we have to face harsh realities – at these times we need to trust in God's power to work in and through us; we will find that it is always a power to save, a power to love, a power to heal and transform the lives of ourselves and others.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:**

**CELEBRANT:** We surrender our needs to the Lord who is our light and our help seeking blessings on ourselves who are copies of the glorious body of Jesus Christ.

Our response is: **LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For the Church: that our Lenten preparation for Easter may bring forth for each of us a new and transforming experience of God in our lives. We pray to the Lord...

For our world: that we may work towards ending discrimination on the basis of colour, creed, gender, social status and other divides. We pray to the Lord...

For our families and communities: that we will develop relationships that are transformative and life giving and guided by honesty and respect. We pray to the Lord...

For women everywhere, especially in our country: that they may feel safe and respected wherever they are, and be accorded their rightful dignity as children of God. We pray to the Lord...

For all who carry emotional wounds, especially women who have suffered abuse in various forms: that God will heal their spirits, renew their hope and lead them to wholeness. We pray to the Lord...

For all our personal needs and intentions which we offer to the Lord with faith (p-a-u-s-e). We pray to the Lord...

**CELEBRANT:** Almighty God, we thank you for listening to the prayers we offer for all, especially for the well-being of women, as we seek to do your will as Your beloved children, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

---- prepared by Maureen Pereira  
for the Archdiocesan Women's Commission