

# Second Sunday of Lent

Homily: Fr. Shijo George

Pastor – Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Victoria, BC, Canada

---

The Readings today speak to us about a profound spiritual truth: there is no glory without sacrifice; no resurrection without the Cross. Very often, we desire the glory of God: we want peace, joy, and blessings. But when the path requires surrender, patience, or suffering, we hesitate. Yet, the Word of God gently reminds us that the road to glory always passes through trust and sacrifice.

In the First Reading from the Book of Genesis, God calls Abraham to leave everything behind; his land, his family home, his security, and all that was familiar to him. God did not reveal the full picture. He simply said: “Go.” So, Abraham walked into the unknown, guided only by faith. Because he trusted, because he obeyed, he became a blessing to all nations. His glory came after his surrender.

In the Second Reading, from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy, Saint Paul reminds us that we are called not only to believe in Christ but also to share in suffering for the Gospel. Faith does not provide comfort alone; it requires commitment, perseverance, and courage when discipleship becomes difficult. Christ Himself endured suffering, and conquered death. The pattern is clear: suffering, then glory.

When we come to the Gospel according to Matthew, the Transfiguration, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain; and for a brief moment, He reveals His divine glory to them. His face shone like the sun; his garments become dazzling white; and the disciples see who Jesus truly is. However, immediately after this exhilarating experience, Jesus speaks about His coming Passion. It is as if He is telling them: do not seek the mountain of glory without accepting the Cross that follows.



My dear brothers and sisters, Lent is our time to journey with the Lord. It is not about suffering for its own sake. It is about reordering our lives according to the Gospel. Abraham left what was dear to him. The question for us is: what are we being asked to leave behind? It may not be something dramatic. Often, the sacrifices God asks of us are simple and hidden.

It may be the sacrifice of time. We say we are busy, yet we spend hours on our phones and on entertainment. This Lent, can we offer God fifteen minutes of silent prayer each day? Can we begin the morning with Scripture instead of scrolling through our cellphones? Small sacrifices of time open the heart to grace.

Perhaps we need to sacrifice our ego. How many conflicts in our families and communities are caused by pride? We want to be right. We want the last word. True surrender may mean having to apologise first. It may mean choosing silence instead of anger. It may mean forgiving someone who has not even asked for forgiveness. That is a real cross — but it brings resurrection in relationships.

Maybe it is the sacrifice of comfort. We live in a world that avoids inconvenience. Yet spiritual growth requires discipline. Fasting is not only from food, it may be to fast from gossip; from negative speech; from unnecessary spending; from indulging in constant entertainment. When we deny ourselves small comforts, our hearts become freer and stronger.

Maybe it is a sacrifice of charity. Each week, we can choose one concrete act of love: visiting someone who is lonely; making a phone call to someone who is grieving; helping a struggling family; encouraging someone who feels discouraged. When love becomes action, Christ shines through us.

Perhaps the greatest sacrifice is the sacrifice of trust. Some of us carry hidden burdens — illness, financial strain, family worries, uncertainty about the future.

---

Instead of asking: “Why is this happening to me?” make it a prayer and ask: “Lord, what are You teaching me through this?” Trust is the deepest surrender, because it places our future in God’s hands.

Spiritual life is like gardening: for a plant to bloom, weeds must be removed. If weeds are not pulled out, they may choke the plant and prevent its growth. In the same way, if we do not remove sin and unhealthy attachments, they hinder our spiritual growth. Lent is the season for our spiritual gardening — removing the weeds so that God’s grace may nourish us and His light may shine within us.

Abraham trusted.

Paul endured.

Christ surrendered.

Glory followed.

If we walk through our lives faithfully through daily sacrifice, making small, sincere, hidden sacrifices; the light of the Transfiguration will slowly begin to shine in our own lives. Then one day, after carrying our crosses with faith, we too shall rejoice in His eternal glory.

May this Lent be a time of courage, surrender, and hope for all of us.