**Second Sunday of Lent**

February 25th 2018

*God is on our side*

In this weekend’s readings we hear the familiar story of the Transfiguration of the Lord. In that moment Jesus revealed to Peter and John exactly who He was. God. In that moment, alongside, Moses and Elijah, the two Disciples experienced heaven on earth. There are a few places, and experiences, like that for me, where I have experienced heaven on earth. Places where I, like Peter, have announced “It is wonderful to be here” and **reluctant** to leave. Lourdes is one such place. In Lourdes life appears to be fully counter cultural, where the most vulnerable are always put first, where faith is celebrated and Jesus is magnified. To me this is a taste of heaven. I’ve had similar experiences in the middle of leading retreats, in particular the annual Lifeteen Summer Camp that is hosted at Alton Castle. There God has spoken to me through the many young people who have attended, their charity, their openness and most especially their witness. I am always reluctant to leave. But leave we must! Jesus needed Peter and John to go down from the mountain. So what do we do after these *mountain top* moments? This is where I think the Second Reading comes in. Leaving the mountain is hard but we need to be strong, courageous and always remember this;

“With God on our side who can be against us?”

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