



Vox Populi

01 August 2024

Next Tuesday, 6 August is the Feast Day of The Transfiguration of the Lord.

This day commemorates one of the pinnacles of Jesus' earthly life, when He revealed His Divinity to three of His closest disciples by means of a miraculous and supernatural light.

Before His entry into Jerusalem, Jesus climbed to a high point on what is believed to have been Mount Tabor with Peter, James, and John. While Jesus prayed, His appearance was changed by a brilliant white light which shone from Him and from His clothing.

At this time the Old Testament figures of Moses, the giver of the Law, and Elijah, who was considered the greatest of Israel's prophets, also appeared, and spoke of how Christ would suffer and die after entering Jerusalem, before His Resurrection. All three of the Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke - record the Lord's Transfiguration, and that the voice of God was heard, confirming Jesus as His Son.

Pope Benedict XVI described how the events of the Transfiguration display Christ as the "full manifestation of God's light", in an address before the Angelus on 6 August 2006.

This light, which shines forth from Christ both at the Transfiguration and after His Resurrection, is ultimately triumphant over "the power of the darkness of evil."

The Pope stressed that the feast of the Transfiguration is an important opportunity for believers to look to Christ as "the light of the world," and to experience the kind of conversion which scriptures frequently describes as an emergence from darkness to light.

Many writers describe the Transfiguration (which took place 40 days before His Passion) as a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.