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THE BULLETIN

Sunday 6 August, Transfiguration

Collect for the Transfiguration of Our Lord

Father in heaven,
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem:
give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross
that in the world to come we may see him as he is;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Collect for Trinity 8

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14: Judgement before the Ancient One

As I watched, thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne;

his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgement,
and the books were opened.
As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

2 Peter 1:16-19: Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Luke 9:28-36: The Transfiguration

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah' - not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

<p>The Readings for 13 August, Trinity 9, are 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33</p>
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Sunny Spain's cruel side

SPAIN, a land of beauty, history and music, is divided over its treatment of animals. About 60,000 creatures are killed every year in festivals, including, for example, live turkeys thrown off church towers. Nearly 30,000 people have signed a petition against the centuries-old tradition, carried out in the Andalusian region, of throwing the live bird off a church tower, then chasing it to its death in the street.

As well as traditional bullfighting, there is the cruel practice of fastening flaming torches to a bull's horns. The terrified animal then chases members of the public, while trying to douse the flames which can cause serious injury. Only ten days ago a bull

with its horns on fire in the east of Spain killed itself by running into a wooden post in its disorientated frenzy. This is called “traditional sport”.

Apparently fewer than ten per cent of Spaniards attend a bullfight and, between 2007 and 2016, the number of contests halved.

Catalonia in 2010 followed the Canary Islands in banning bullfights but last year the Spanish Supreme Court overruled their decision. A poll suggested that 60% of Spanish people did not like bullfighting, although only 42% favoured a ban.

Opponents, in a recent protest, bore placards saying “Bullfighting, the school of cruelty” and “Bullfighting, a national shame”.

Supporters, however, including Spain’s Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, called it “a traditional art form rooted in Spanish history”.

Another sport, enjoyed in Alicante, has participants chasing young bulls down the street so that they jump into the sea. The animals are rescued, but one wonders what kind of person regards this as fun. Spain is a Roman Catholic country, so presumably many supporters of bullfighting claim Christian allegiance. Supporters of bullfighting from outside Spain may be unbelievers. If alleged Christians, they ignore God’s love for his creation. The Pope, by contrast, taking the name Francis, cares greatly about animals.

Terrible suffering is caused to animals in Britain but, in general, their welfare is much better than in Europe. UK Charities rehome dogs which have been abandoned in some European countries. The Donkey Sanctuary tells the story of Vida, a donkey in Spain who collapsed from extreme malnutrition and overwork. He had worked relentlessly pulling scrap from town to town in a cart. A campaign liberated Vida from his owner, and he is now being treated in a Spanish sanctuary.