

RCIA: SESSION TWENTY

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: THE APOSTLES' CREED

Week: 27/02/23 – 05/03/23

The Apostles' Creed:

1. *'The Apostles' Creed* is so called because it is rightly considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles' faith. It is the ancient baptismal symbol of the Church of Rome. Its great authority arises from this fact: it is the Creed of the Roman Church, the See of Peter the first of the apostles, to which he brought the common faith.¹
2. *The Apostles' Creed* and other summaries of faith are called 'creeds' on account of what is usually the first word in Latin of these summaries: *credo* ('I believe').
3. Faith is first professed during Baptism. 'The symbol of faith is first and foremost the *baptismal* creed. Since Baptism is given *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*, the truths of faith professed during Baptism are articulated in terms of their reference to the three persons of the Holy Trinity.'² Hence the Creed is divided into three parts: belief in God the Father; belief in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God and belief in the Holy Spirit.
4. Sometimes we may think of faith as an assent to doctrines; in other words an intellectual acceptance of statements of Church teaching. 'But faith, hope and love are *theological virtues*, meaning that they concern primarily our relationship with God and affect our relationships with one another. We believe first of all not in statements, however important and central, but in God, and we believe not only with our minds but with our whole selves.'³
5. The elect will be encouraged to commit *The Apostles' Creed* to memory as they will recite it publicly prior to professing their faith in accordance with that Creed on the day of their baptism. *The Apostles' Creed* will be explained to the elect and both it and the *Nicene Creed* will be presented to them at the First Scrutiny.

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 194.

² Ibid. No. 189.

³ Share the Good News, No. 44.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Gospel Reflection Sunday 5th March is the Second Sunday of Lent, Year A (Mt. 17:1-19).

The following format will be used for all Gospel reflections:

- Read the text aloud.
- Pause for a minute's silence.
- Read the text aloud again.
- Ask everyone to pick a word or a phrase that struck them. They just say the word or phrase without comment or discussion.
- Read the text again.
- Ask those present to comment on their word or phrase. What struck them about it? Why/how is it speaking to them?
- Continue with the discussion. The following questions may be helpful: What does this mean to me? How does it make me feel? Do I find the text disturbing/hopeful/confusing? What images of God emerge for me? What do I think that God is saying in this text? What impact does this have on my life?

GOSPEL READING

Reader: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with your spirit.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.'

When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said, 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.