

Parish of Blaris

Sunday 1st March 2026

The Second Sunday of Lent

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Masses Monday – Friday 10.00am

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

Sunday: 10.00am & 12 noon

LIVE WEBSTREAMING OF ALL MASSES

Please note many parishes in the Diocese have webcams installed which provide live coverage of various Masses taking place daily throughout the Diocese. These can be accessed by visiting www.downandconnor.org Links to Parish Webcams. Live Church webcam links: CHURCH SERVICES. TV & MCN MEDIA CHURCH WEBCAMS

"There, in the presence of Peter and James and his brother John, Jesus was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as dazzling as light."

Matthew 17:2



Fr. Dermot McCaughan, PP: 028 9266 2341

Fr. Eamon Magorrian, CC: 028 9266 2348

Parish Office Opening Hours:
Monday-Friday 10.30am-4.00pm.
Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm.

Parish Office: 028 9266 0206 Fax: 028 9266 5690

Email: lisburn@downandconnor.org

Pastoral Centre: 028 9260 7110

www.parishoflisburn.org

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Congregation stands

**Entrance Hymn or
Entrance Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 26:8-9

All: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest: Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen

THE COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer

Priest: O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Congregation Sits

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis **12:1-4**

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.'

All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R v.22

(R) May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

- The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R)**
- The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R)**
- Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Timothy **1:8-10**

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

ACCLAMATION **Mt 17:5**

All: Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew **17:1-9**

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation sits

HOMILY

Congregation stand

THE CREED

**All: I believe in one God,
 the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the Only Begotten Son of God,
 born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made, consubstantial with the
 Father; through him all things were made
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,**

(bow your head up to the words 'and became man')

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
 Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
 Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
 and rose again on the third day
 in accordance with the Scriptures.
 He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
 life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and
 glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
 Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
 of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of
 the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Congregation sits

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession

*The gifts of bread and wine which will become the Lord's body
 and blood are brought to the altar.*

The celebrant raises the host on the paten saying:

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
 for through your goodness we have received
 the bread we offer you:
 fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
 it will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

*The celebrant pours wine and a little water into the
 chalice, saying quietly:*

Priest: By the mystery of this water and wine
 may we come to share in the divinity of Christ
 who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*The celebrant then raises the chalice above the
 altar and says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
 for through your goodness we have received
 the wine we offer you:
 fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
 it will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Bowing, the celebrant says quietly:

Priest: With humble spirit and contrite heart
 may we be accepted by you, O Lord,
 and may our sacrifice in your sight this day
 be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Then the celebrant washes his hands, saying quietly:

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity
 and cleanse me from my sin.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and
 yours may be acceptable to God,
 the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
 for the praise and glory of his name, for our
 good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Priest: May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,
 cleanse us of our faults
 and sanctify your faithful in body and mind
 for the celebration of the paschal festivities.
 Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Congregation stands

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

PREFACE (The Transfiguration of the Lord)

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

ACCLAMATION

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Congregation kneels

Priest: You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and + Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL
COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR
YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS
OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Priest: The mystery of faith.

All: **My Lord and my God.**

Priest: Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs with Saint Patrick and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Leo our Pope and N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world. To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Congregation stands

THE COMMUNION RITE

Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and for ever.**

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

All: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world, grant us peace.**

Congregation kneels

The celebrant says quietly:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,
but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and body
and a healing remedy.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Priest: May the Body of Christ
keep me safe for eternal life.

Priest: May the Blood of Christ
keep me safe for eternal life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 17:5

All: **This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well
pleased; listen to him.**

Purifying the chalice the celebrant says quietly:

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord,
may we possess in purity of heart,
that what has been given to us in time
may be our healing for eternity.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation kneels

Priest: Let us pray.
As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Priest: Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,
with a blessing that endures for ever,
and keep them faithful
to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son,
so that they may always desire and at last attain
that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body,
to the amazement of his Apostles.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Priest: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit

All: **Amen**

Then the celebrant, with hands joined and facing the people, says:

Priest: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Imprimatur – nihil obstat: + Most Rev. Alan McGuckian, SJ, Bishop of Down and Connor. Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Jerusalem Bible version of the scriptures copyright: Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial Psalms are copyright The Grail and/or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Created and published by Tara Lees, 1 Lille Park, Belfast, BT10 0LR. T: 02890302817. E: tarabooklet@gmail.com.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Madeline Fleming: Patrick Deeney

MONTH'S MIND: Donald Roe

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Narciso G. Ferrer. Jr.

ANNIVERSARIES: James Donaghy: Tony Ewing: Michael Lagan: Mary & Joseph McCorry (Snr): Sean Loney: Kathleen Close: Teresa Mulholland: Michael Downey; Joan Connaghan: Patrick, John & Frank Hughes: Jane English: Arthur O'Reilly, Snr: Joe Cooper: Kathleen Loughran.

MASS TIMES DURING LENT

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

Sunday: 10.00am & 12 noon

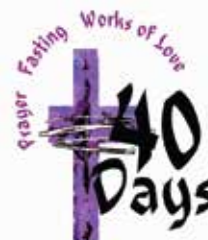
Weekdays; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10.00am.

Wednesday: Ministry of the Word & Holy Communion: 10.00am

Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays at 7.15pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm

Confessions: Tuesday before and after 10.00am Mass.

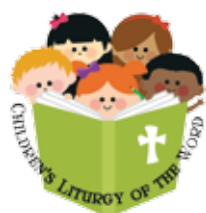
All Masses are live streamed – visit www.churchlive.co.uk



INDIAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Way of the Cross Friday evenings during Lent from 6.00pm – 7.00pm commencing Friday 20th February 2026 to Friday 27th March 2024 (incl).

LENTEN PLEDGE: Many people choose to abstain from alcohol during the season Lent. You can do likewise. Please consider taking the short-term Pioneer Lenten pledge and say the prayer daily – “I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent”.



NEW 10.00AM CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP BEGINNING ON SUNDAY 12TH APRIL

A new Children's Liturgy Group will commence in St. Patrick's Pastoral Centre during our 10.00 Masses in Lisburn from Sunday 12th April.

This group welcomes all children from 4-11 years of age (Primary 1 to Primary 7).

Please note that you must register your child/children BEFORE the first session. Registration Forms will be available after the 10.00am and 12 o'clock Mass on Sunday 15th and Sunday 22nd March.

You will also have the opportunity to meet and greet our newly formed Children's Liturgy Team in the Pastoral Centre after both Masses. They will be able to provide more information and answer any queries you may have! Don't miss out in this fantastic opportunity for your children and the faith development of our Parish.

Don't miss a DIVINE invitation to come on **ST PATRICK'S WAY PILGRIM WALK IN DOWNPATRICK** with guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on Saturday March 14 in honour of Ireland's patron saint and the 25th Anniversary of The Saint Patrick Centre. Includes the fabulous 180° IMAX film of St Patrick, with internal bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch, an authentic Camino passport and a 6-mile pilgrimage walk finishing at St Patrick's grave. A special 25% discount price is on offer of £40 (normally £55) To book ring 02844 61900 or www.thesaintpatrickcentre.com

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ALTAR SERVERS: We congratulate our two new servers Anna and Aeron who begin their ministry this weekend. All Altar Servers are asked to attend a meeting on Saturday 28 March from 2.30pm - 3.45pm in the Church.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

We congratulate and pray our P.7 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday. A word of thanks to the teachers, parents and all who helped prepare the children for the Sacrament.

NI SUZUKI STUDENTS WITH THE SOUTH ULSTER SONFONIA - FREE CONCERT

St. Joseph's Primary School, Lisburn

Saturday 7th March 2026. 3.00pm.

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Early in the morning, well before dawn, Jesus went off to some lonely place and prayed there.

Lord, Help Me to Pray!

*As I bring to mind the hills and mountains where you went to pray,
And imagine you climbing up higher to some lonely place away from the crowds,
I think how these times of prayer were so precious to you,
These quiet moments in between all the busy teaching and preaching.*

*And then I think of the many days when I've been busy
and given hardly a thought to you!
Why do so many insignificant things seem to occupy the day?*

*Lord, in this time of Lent help me to make prayer a priority,
to find a quiet space in the day, to share with you, a sacred place,
To enjoy your company.
This we ask through Christ, our Lord, Amen.
Prayer Trust*

SENSORY-FRIENDLY MASS INVITATION

St Colmcille's Parish (Ballyhackamore Belfast BT4 3JB) warmly invites you to our monthly Sensory Mass on Saturday, 28th February at 12:00 noon. This special Mass is designed to be inclusive and welcoming for individuals and families who may benefit from a quieter, more relaxed worship environment. The Mass will feature gentle lighting and sound; a calm and supportive atmosphere; space to move around if needed; sensory items to aid regulation; a warm welcome for all ages and abilities. Whether you or a loved one experience sensory sensitivities, or you simply wish to attend a short peaceful and reflective service, we would love to see you there. Refreshments after Mass in the parish centre, with supervised activities for all.

CAPPELLA CAECILIANA warmly invites you and your parish community to a special performance of Mozart's Requiem on Sunday 29 March at 6:30pm in Clonard Monastery. Conducted by Matthew Quinn, this performance of one of the most powerful works in the sacred choral repertoire will feature a collaboration with the Ulster Youth Orchestra, alongside an outstanding line-up of internationally experienced soloists. Mozart's Requiem remains one of the cornerstones of the sacred Classical repertoire, and we are delighted to present it in the beautiful and reflective setting of Clonard Monastery as part of our 30th Anniversary season. Event details: Sunday 29 March, 6:30pm, Clonard Monastery, Belfast BT13 2RL. Tickets £20, under 25s £5. Available at website: www.caeciliana.org

Gospel Commentary

The Transfiguration of Christ is recorded in the first three Gospels (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9). The fourth does not recount the story, but John 1:14 is possibly a reference to it: "We have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." And Peter wrote, "We were 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" (2 Peter 1:16-18).

How are we to understand this or any account of the Transfiguration? As an historical event? As a symbolic story? Or as a spiritual experience? It is alright to be puzzled by it; in Mark's account of it, Peter "didn't know what to say."

What kind of clarity can we get today, if those disciples were at a loss? The scholars tell us to look at its context. This voice from heaven was heard once before, at Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. The words were the same in all three gospels (except that Matthew says 'This is my Son,' while Mark and Luke write 'You are my Son'). In each case a cloud overshadows him (in the Old Testament the cloud was frequently an image of God's presence: for example, in Exodus 19:9; Leviticus 16:2; etc.). So the scene is like a backward glance to the beginning of his public life. It is also a glance to the future: it is like a moment's preview of the Resurrection. The beginning and the end of the story are brought together in one luminous moment. But again, how are we to understand it? Let's see what significance it may have had for the disciples.


In all three gospels it comes just after Jesus predicted his suffering and death for the first time. Such talk must have seemed incomprehensible to them. Their minds turned on fame and success. To make matters worse, Jesus hinted that as followers of his, they would suffer a similar fate. This must have added terror to incomprehension. It was time for an experience that would lift them from the doldrums, it was time for one luminous moment.

They enjoyed the experience, whatever it was. "Lord, it is good for us to be here," said Peter. He even offered to erect some kind of shelters so that they could stay there. He would soon be dragged beyond that instant enthusiasm. It is significant that Jesus told them not to talk about it. Some things, he seems to say, cannot be understood by the busy mind.

Even in the face of less mysterious things our mental categories are limiting and provisional. How hard it is sometimes to describe some event in one's own life. "Did it really happen, or did I only imagine it, or was it something I remember dimly from childhood, or saw on television, or heard my parents talk about...?" In real life, fact and symbol and inner experience all come together. How could anyone know what category to put the Transfiguration in?

Many people admit to having had spiritual experiences of some kind. There is nothing exceptional about this. It stands to reason that there are moments when your mind is clearer, quieter, more receptive. The temptation is to grab these experiences greedily, to consider yourself 'enlightened', and to begin to see yourself as different. The advice is the same as the advice to those disciples: don't talk about it. Talking will make a 'thing' of it. Let it do its work, simply, silently. This is how the Kingdom of God comes about, as Jesus said on many occasions.

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