

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

His face was shining like the sun.

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

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

R. 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

P. Sanctify, O Lord, we pray, these offerings here made to celebrate the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son, and by his radiant splendour cleanse us from the stains of sin. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

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.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

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

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

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

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. 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.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. 1 Jn 3: 2

When Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May the heavenly nourishment we have received, O Lord, we pray, transform us into the likeness of your Son, whose radiant splendour you willed to make manifest in his glorious Transfiguration. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

ASCENDING THE MOUNTAIN

Throughout Scripture, mountains are portrayed as the locus of God's particular closeness. In the episode of the Transfiguration, Jesus' inner circle of apostles – Peter, James and John – accompany him up a high mountain. While they are there, the unimaginable happens: Jesus changes in appearance and manifests himself to them as the Son of God. Following this experience, the three Apostles are changed men, carrying with them a firsthand glimpse of God's majesty and Jesus' identity as the Son of God. The vision will be a source of strength for them during the coming passion and death of Jesus.

In the depths of our hearts is an ardent cry for God's love. Increasingly it is a cry we don't hear. We have become experts at keeping busy, hopping from one activity to the next, filling eyes, ears, and heart with distractions often misconstrued as important yet unable to satisfy. We end up exhausted and still clueless about where true joy is, where God is.

Yet God remains ever-present with us, especially in the Holy Eucharist. The highest form of prayer, the Mass, quenches our thirst with the Living Water. We partake of Jesus' Body and Blood. We are bathed in the Light of Christ and granted a foretaste of heaven, becoming transfigured ourselves. The Eucharist thus functions like the mountain in Scripture: a privileged place for us to encounter the divine. Hence, we should go to Church as we would trek a mountain: leaving behind all distractions, we come to Mass to truly seek God with our whole being. Only then do we find him, always present, eagerly anticipating. And then our own transfiguration can begin and we can exclaim together with Peter: 'Lord, it is good that we are here.'

FR GIL ALINSANGAN SSP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD / A

6 AUGUST 2017

HIS FACE SHONE LIKE THE SUN. Through the eyes of resurrection faith, Jesus' first disciples came to understand that, during his earthly life, they had caught glimpses of his unique relationship with God. In his life of unswerving fidelity to the Father's will, the glory into which Jesus entered through his passion and death shone through. 'We had seen his majesty for ourselves' wrote Peter.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Mt 17: 5

In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared. / The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, / with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; /

you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of the Fathers and wonderfully prefigured our full adoption to sonship, grant, we pray, to your servants, that, listening to the voice of your beloved Son, we may merit to become coheirs with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Dan 7: 9-10, 13-14

A reading from the book of Daniel
His raiment was as white as snow.

As I watched:

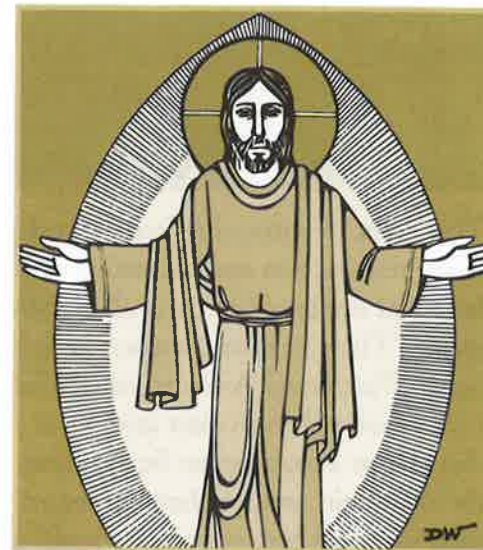
Thrones were set in place and one of great age took his seat. His robe was white as snow, the hair of his head as pure as wool. His throne was a blaze of flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A stream of fire poured out, issuing from his presence. A thousand thousand waited on him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

A court was held and the books were opened. I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man.

He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.



RESP PSALM

Ps 96: 1-2, 5-6, 9. R. vv. 1, 9

R. The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, let all the coastlands be glad. Cloud and darkness are his raiment; his throne, justice and right. **R.**

2. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory. **R.**

3. For you indeed are the Lord most high above all the earth exalted far above all spirits. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Pet 1: 16-19

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.
We heard this voice from out of heaven.

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17: 5

Alleluia, alleluia! / This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: / listen to him. / Alleluia!



The Catholic Communities of Rose Bay and Dover Heights



Issue 13

The Transfiguration

6 August 2017



Reflection



This event of witnessing Jesus' transfiguration on Mt Tabor was a pivotal moment for the three disciples. Long after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, in the days of arduous missionary travel and persecution, when they must at times have had doubts that it was all worthwhile, it would be the memory of this event which sustained them. Imagine the scene, "There in their presence, he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light." Terrifying? Awe-inspiring? Unforgettable? Probably a mixture of all of those feelings. When Peter, James and John recovered from their initial fear (mentioned in St Luke's account but not by St Matthew), Peter wants to stay in this almost ecstatic state. Surely most of us can identify with that desire to cling to our good experiences, to stay on the mountain and not have to return to the mundane of everyday life. Significantly, this story is placed in St Matthew's Gospel between two of Jesus' sayings about the suffering that will be required of himself and of his followers. Like the disciples, we are being encouraged and reassured that the daily dying-to-self which life asks of us will indeed end in glory.

5th and 6th August Charitable Works Fund Appeal

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) is a centralised fund that supports the charitable and pastoral activities of the Archdiocese of Sydney. The funds are the source of various Catholic ministries and organisations, allowing the Church to foster, promote and share the message of the Gospel. The CWF funds ministries such as: *Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, CatholicCare, Chaplaincies* (through support in hospitals, prisons and universities), the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and The Seminaries.

The demand for services of these agencies supported by the CWF has never been greater, and it is only because of the generosity of those who contribute financially to the CWF that these agencies are able to assist thousands of people each year.

Your contribution to the CWF will help ensure the continued viability of their work. Please consider making a donation or bequest to the CWF. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible and can be credited to your local parish. Envelopes have been made available at the Church doors for your convenience. Thank you for your generosity and God Bless!

Let Us Pray For...

The Sick: James Kennedy, Brian Oong, Dorothy Cambell, Barbara Leslie, Bernice Miles, Ross Clifton, Michelle Jones, Paddy Nolan, Janaya Zohs, Georgia Cleaici, Fr Brian Yates, Natalie Connors, Elaine Oong, Harry Vanda, Alan Backman, John Johnson, Mary Marando, Tom Clark, Fabien Drif, Sarah Walke, Renata, Richard Hughes.

The Deceased: Solomon Aguan, Beryl Yip, Sister Pam Corser, Victor Prineas, Dorothy D'Mestre, Mary Dunne, Joan Quinn, Pamela Shiels, John Fenech, Ethell Purcell, Patricia Scharrer, John Jodeph Cannon, Cezat and Teofila Buer, Maria Lydia Fretas, Monsignor John Walsh, Leith Myerson, Fritz Shroader, Richard Charles Leo Carroll, John Chaplian, Norman and Josephine Slattery, Nell Moylan, John Fenech, Anne Pohlmann, Mark McGowen, Sonya Lineham, Marie Turnbull.



Weekly Liturgies

Sunday Mass
St Mary Magdalene: 8am, 10am, 6pm
St Therese (Sat night vigil): 5pm
Weekday Mass
St Mary Magdalene, Rose Bay: Tue-Fri 9am
Confession
Tues-Fri after 9am Mass (or by appointment)
Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 8:30am-9am
Rosary after 9am Mass.

St Mary Magdalene, 835 New South Head Rd, Rose Bay NSW : ABN - 78134 879 965
St Therese, Cnr, Napier St and Dover Rd, Dover Heights NSW : ABN - 96464 703 191

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Message From Pope Francis

The gospel today presents the narrative of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Taking aside three of the apostles, Peter, James and John, He led them up a high mountain. And that is where this unique phenomenon took place: Jesus' face "shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light". In this way, the Lord allowed the divine glory which could be understood through faith in his preaching and his miraculous gestures, to shine within him. The Transfiguration was accompanied by the apparition of Moses and Elijah who were "talking with him".

The 'brightness' which characterises this extraordinary event symbolises its purpose: to enlighten the minds and hearts of the disciples so that they may clearly understand who their Teacher is. It is a flash of light which suddenly opens onto the mystery of Jesus and illuminates his whole person and his whole story.

At this point in the gospel, Jesus is decisively headed toward Jerusalem where he will be sentenced to death by crucifixion. Jesus wanted to prepare his own for this scandal — the scandal of the cross — this scandal which is too intense for their faith and, at the same time, to foretell his resurrection by manifesting himself as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus was preparing them for that sad and very painful moment. In fact, Jesus was already revealing himself as a Messiah, different from their expectations from how they imagined the Messiah, how the Messiah would be: not a powerful and glorious king, but a humble and unarmed servant; not a lord of great wealth, a sign of blessing, but a poor man with nowhere to rest his head; not a patriarch with many descendants, but a celibate man without home or nest. It is truly an overturned revelation of God, and the most bewildering sign of this scandalous overturning, is the cross. But it is through the cross that Jesus will reach the glorious resurrection, which will be definitive, not like this Transfiguration which lasted a moment, an instant.

Transfigured on Mount Tabor, Jesus wanted to show his disciples his glory, not for them to circumvent the cross, but to show where the cross leads. Those who die with Jesus, shall rise again with Jesus. The cross is the door to resurrection. Whoever struggles alongside him will triumph with him. This is the message of hope contained in Jesus' cross, urging us to be strong in our existence. The Christian cross is not the furnishings of a house or adornments to wear but rather, the Christian cross is a call to the love with which Jesus sacrificed himself to save humanity from evil and sin.

The Blessed Virgin was able to contemplate the glory of Jesus hidden in his humanness. May she help us stay with him in silent prayer, to allow ourselves to be enlightened by his presence, so as to bring a reflection of his glory to our hearts through the darkest nights.

St Mary Magdalene Roster—13th August

13th August	8am	10am	6pm
Welcomer	Anna Creagh		
Info Desk		Sue Heavener	
1st Reader	Catherine Remond	Sandra Power	Kerry Gazal
2nd Reader	Barney Remond	Hazel Mezger	Lindsay Gazal
Eucharistic Minister	Lucie Priestly	Glenys Granger	Ann Kirkjian
	Tina Dahdah	Lucille Gravina	
Acolyte/Altar Servers	Paul, John, Saxon/Anthony Williams	Tricia/John & Michael Oliveri, Jay Mabee	Andrew Scarf Edward Scarf

St Therese, Dover Heights Roster—12th August

Commentator— Kate Cosgrove
First Reader— Susan Scarf
Second Reader— David Scarf
Acolyte/Senior Server— Marie Manche

Announcements



CATHOLICCARE..... You can help refugee families fleeing war by donating to our 2017 EOFY Appeal. Call us on 131819 or visit our website at www.catholiccare.org. CatholicCare Sydney: Helping families live and thrive



Valuing dignity
Strengthening families
Connecting communities



Volunteers help us bring community to older people's lives by their weekly visits. To find out more, call us on 13 18 19.

To find out more, contact our Customer Service Team: 13 18 19 connect@catholiccare.org

Australian Catholic Youth Festival This 3-Day festival will be held in Sydney 7-9 December 2017. The event will attract 15,000 young people and is for young people aged Year 9 to 30 years. It's a Catholic Festival a bit like World Youth Day! We look forward to the whole Parish Community being involved. For more information, see our website www.acyf.org.au

Over the next few weeks, there will be envelopes available in the foyer of the Church for the 'Vinnies Winter Appeal'. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Please note the **First Eucharist preparation class** has been cancelled due to the City2Surf. Classes will recommence as scheduled on Sunday 20th August at 9am.