

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP FEAST DAY, 8 AUGUST

This week we remember St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Australia's first saint, for her dedication in caring for the human and spiritual needs of children, and her care for the poor and destitute. Underpinning all of her activities was her faith in divine Providence. In all the challenges she faced, and the crosses she endured, she never doubted the unceasing protection of 'our good God'.

'GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF US ALL'



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
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 Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>
 Priest: Fr George Azhakath
 Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
 Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am
 Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/3rd Thursday of the month 9:00am
Reconciliation: Sat @ Moruya: 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-9:00am before Mass
 4:15pm-4:45pm before Mass
Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** 40 mins before weekday Mass
Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600
Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

The Transfiguration of Our Lord - YEAR A - August 5 & 6 2023

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

The transfiguration is one of the miracles of Jesus in the **Gospels**. This miracle is unique among others that appear in the canonical gospels, in that the miracle happens to Jesus himself.

Thomas Aquinas considered the transfiguration "*the greatest miracle*", in that it complemented baptism and showed the perfection of life in Heaven. The transfiguration is one of the five major milestones in the **gospel** narrative of the life of Jesus, the others being baptism, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.



In 2002, Pope John Paul II introduced the Luminous Mysteries in the rosary, which include the transfiguration. In Christian teachings, the transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place of the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth. Moreover, Christians consider the transfiguration to fulfill an Old Testament messianic prophecy that Elijah would return again after his ascension (Malachi 4:5–6). Gardner (2015, p. 218) states:

The very last of the writing prophets, Malachi, promised a return of Elijah to hold out hope for repentance before judgment (*Mal. 4:5–6*). ... Elijah himself would reappear in the Transfiguration. There he would appear alongside Moses as a representative of all the prophets who looked forward to the coming of the Messiah (*Matt. 17:2–9; Mark 9:2–10; Luke 9:28–36*). ... Christ's redemptive sacrifice was the purpose for which Elijah had ministered while on earth. ... And it was the goal about which Elijah spoke to Jesus in the Transfiguration.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Dn 7:9-10. 13-14

A reading from the book of Daniel

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

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial 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 Pt 1:16-19

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

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

All: 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!

Gospel Mt 17:1-9

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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



Entrance Antiphon: 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.

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

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) **Christian theology assigns a great deal of significance to the transfiguration**, based on multiple elements of the narrative. In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is 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 himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.

2) **The transfiguration not only supports the identity of Jesus as the Son of God** (as in his baptism), but the statement "listen to him", identifies him as the messenger and mouth-piece of God. The significance of this identification is enhanced by the presence of Elijah and Moses, for it indicates to the apostles that Jesus is the voice of God "par excellence", and instead of Moses or Elijah, representing the Law and the prophets, he should be listened to, surpassing the laws of Moses by virtue of his divinity and filial relationship with God. 2 Peter 1:16-18, echoes the same message: at the Transfiguration God assigns to Jesus a special "honor and glory" and it is the turning point at which God exalts Jesus above all other powers in creation, and positions him as ruler and judge.

3) **The transfiguration also echoes the teaching by Jesus** (as in Matthew 22:32) that God is not "the God of the dead, but of the living". Although Moses had died and Elijah had been taken up to heaven centuries before (as in 2 Kings 2:11), they now live in the presence of the Son of God, implying that the same return to life applies to all who face death and have faith.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare & Bert Broekhuysen, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Ross Hay, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Rick Christensen, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Pat Anderson, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Leo Kop, Barbara Kirk and John Richmond.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Commitment Masses will be held this weekend, 5 and 6 August and **First Holy Communion Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, 9 September at 5pm** Mass. Please keep the children in your prayers.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office is closed and will reopen on Wednesday, 16 August.

EVANGELISATION PROGRAM: Next **Tuesday, 8 August** Parishioners are invited to Marg Croese's home (19 Costin Street, Moruya) to watch and discuss the next episode of **The Chosen**.

