



**THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD
YEAR A**

6 August 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*God our Father, in the transfigured glory of Christ your Son,
you strengthen our faith by confirming the witness of your prophets.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: 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: 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight:
listen to him.

Alleluia!

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

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.'



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Jesus takes his most trusted disciples up a high mountain to allow them to share in what he knows is about to occur. It is a very clear teaching moment in which Jesus hopes the disciples are going to finally grasp the truth about him. As the disciples stand by, Jesus is transformed before them – suddenly bathed in light and his clothes become dazzlingly white. The disciples also see Moses and Elijah standing and talking with Jesus. Moses was the great Law-giver of Jewish tradition and Elijah the great prophet. Together, they represent the Law and the Prophets – the combined wisdom that make up the tradition of Jewish teaching and Jewish scripture. It is the Law and the Prophets that Jesus' life and ministry brings to fulfilment. It is fitting that Moses and Elijah appear beside Jesus, as the three figures combined represent the fullness of Jewish tradition – the Law of Moses; the challenge and promise of the Prophets; and the compassion of Jesus that completes the other two.

Sadly, the disciples don't really get the point of what they see before them. Peter, caught up in the moment, wants to build tents on the spot to mark the moment and to continue to dwell in the moment. Jesus, however, leads them back down the mountain – back into the valley; back into the reality of life; back into the tragedy that he knows lies before them. No matter how powerful a religious experience may be, Jesus shows us that we always have to return to real life. It is not

possible to remain on the 'mountaintop' as Peter would have liked to do; we have to take the experience back into the everyday of our lives.

Have you thought? Transfigured / Transformed

Jesus' transfiguration was a physical transformation that was able to be witnessed by his disciples. In our lives we have many transforming moments but they are rarely as physically obvious to others as Jesus' transfiguration. Sometimes we fail to recognise a transformative event until well after the fact – sometimes years later. It might be nice if our clothes began to shine white whenever something significant and transformative was happening to us! It might help us to pay attention to the important and life-changing moments of our lives instead of letting them slip by!

Living the Gospel – Down from the mountain

Sometimes we experience powerful moments of connection with God or with other people. Sometimes this might be through a special experience of nature; a meaningful retreat experience; a powerful sense of being 'in tune' with another person; a reflective prayer experience; or some other significant experience. The temptation when we have these experiences is to wish that we could remain in the experience. The challenge, however, is to take that experience back into the everyday of our lives – changed by it without remaining in it.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for all participants in World Youth Day, that they will be inspired by their vision of Christ to become missionary disciples in their local church. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for world peace, that today's remembrance of the nuclear holocaust at Hiroshima and Nagasaki will summon all nations to free the world of nuclear arms. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for First Nations peoples in every land, that this week's International Day of Indigenous Peoples will advance their rightful hopes for recognition and respect. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the Australian church, that the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop this week will encourage all the baptised to care for the poor with her tireless compassion. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for parents, especially those involved in sacramental programs, that they will find joy and delight in their children's achievements as they grow in their faith journey. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for our faith community, that all its members will catch sight of the glory of God in Christ and follow him more closely. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, especially Penny Crawford, Jenny Bodman, Ross Lawless, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers, that they may be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the recently deceased Frs. Laurie Beath and Rafael Cabezon, Joan Daniel, Judy Bevege. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will see God face to face and be made ever new. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,

You revealed the true radiance of Christ in the glory of his transfiguration.

May his grace change us into his image.

Amen.

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm

Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10am

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Araluen Mass: Tuesday 8th August (Mary McKillop's Feast Day) at 11am. See below.

Nerriga Mass: Sunday 20 August at 11am. Lunch afterwards at the pub.

Araluen Mass 8 August: We now envisage a sausage sizzle (sausages and bread supplied by parish) in the park there with parishioners contributing other foods like slices etc. Tea/coffee supplied. BYO other drinks. There will also be two nuns from Sydney attending. Please contact Helen Hart 0430169849 if you plan on attending (for catering purposes). Currently I have around 38 people attending, including some students.

A date has been set to farewell Brother Brian. Sunday 17th Sept, 2-4pm at the Club for afternoon tea This will be a self catered event. We are all sorry that Brian is leaving us as he has become such a loved member of our parish family. Please mark this date in your diaries.

We have some old china and glassware in a cupboard in the Presbytery that hasn't been used in over 20 years. If any parishioner would like to have some, please contact Helen on 0430169849 to check it out. Anything not taken will be sold on our market stall in the coming months.

Readings for Mass: Transfiguration: 1st: Dan. 7:9-10,13-14. 2nd: 2 Peter 1:16-19. Gospel: Matt. 17:1-9. **Next week:** 1st: 1 Kings 19:9,11-13. 2nd: Romans 9:1-5. Gospel Matthew 14:22-33.

Radio Church: Sundays at 6pm on FM 88.9 Cathy Ffrench: reflection on Mary MacKillop 6th Aug.

Ministries for our Mass:	5 August	12 August	19 Aug	26 Aug	
Welcomer:	Geraldine	Cathy F	Helen P	Geraldine	
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)				
Reader 1:	Ann T	Michael	Bobbie	Wendy M-B	
Reader 2:	Wendy H	Cathy F	Tommy	Germaine	
Ministries of service:	4 August	11 Aug	18 Aug	25 Aug	1 September
Altar Decorating:	Joy	Helen P	Cathy F	Margaret	Joy
Cleaning:			Bunny & Ella		Pauline & Wendy
Counters:	1 st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie.		2 nd : Sunday: Wendy H		
	3 rd Sunday: volunteer please		4 th : Phil Owen		
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.					

Keep warm and take care of each other, Helen

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.