

PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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21-22 August, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND MASSES, LITURGY and RECONCILIATION TIMES:	
Monday	9.30am Curtin
Tuesday	9.30am Curtin
Wednesday	9.30am Curtin – Liturgy of the Word and Communion
Thursday	5.30pm Curtin
Friday	9.30am Curtin (incl. Anointing of the Sick on First Friday)
Saturday	Reconciliation 5.00-5.30pm Curtin; Mass 6.00pm Curtin
Sunday	9.30am Curtin, 5.30pm Curtin

All archdiocesan churches and parish offices are closed due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Messages can be left on 6281 3999 or wodennorth@cg.org.au

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

<u>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</u>: Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

<u>COMMUNION ANTIPHON</u>: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

<u>Recently Deceased</u>: John Ryan, David Jordan, Sr Marie Graham rsj, Sr Maria (Heather) Roberts sgs, Ron McLennan, Elaine O'Brien, Cathryn Paton, Mitchel Bush, John McNamee, Michael Baker, Fr Francisco Algas Jr, Kathleen Masters, Stephan Evans, Marie Hickey, Therese Tuite, John Cusack, Lois Billings, Walmucio Atunes Lima, Ted Fitzgerald, Kathy Toth, Fr Brian Maher, George 'Sandy' Munro, Rev. Fr Angelito Parulan and victims of COVID.

<u>Anniversaries of Death</u>: Marie Pugh, Kathleen Majer, Marjory Swan, Sr John Keenan, Pam Dewhurst, Tony O'Donnell, Maurice Cronin, Cecil McGaughan, Anne Perkins, Damien McMahon, Benjamin Jesus Ortile, Esperanza Gementera, Rosie Ortile, Peter Hackwill, Terry & June Freebody, T P Cheng, Antoine Chuc Nguyen, Millena Ceccarelli, Francis, Peter and Anna, Ron Beath, Fr Leandro Infante.

MAY THE SICK BE COMFORTED BY OUR PRAYERS

Veselko Kelava, Chaminda Peiris, Karuna Hettiarachchi, Pauline McLennan, Kathy Hailey, Carmen Woods, Catherine Lloyd, Rosa Winstanley, David Swan, John Verrell, Timothy Roberts, Chris Geraghty, Paul Brown, Jeannette Clarke, Jim Molan, Elsy Poulse, Margaret Jones, Marilyn Pugh, Fred Schinkel, Jeffrey Harris, Peta Doyle, Nick Palethorpe, Mark Williams, Andrea Miller, Kyra Berger, Ian McDonald, Maureen Daly, Mark Tirrikainen, those afflicted with COVID.

TO WALK OR TO ASSENT

What about you? Can you accept this teaching? Today's Gospel is about the response to Jesus's claim to be the Bread of Life and his insistence that *"if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you" (6.53).* Many walked, dismissing the claim as *"intolerable language"* (v.60). Catholics understandably align their response with their assent in faith to Holy Communion being the reception of his body and blood. *"However, Jesus comments in response, "What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?"* (v.62), suggests that the negative response relates to the central claim of the entire discourse rather than just to the eucharistic allusions in the final section. . . Jesus seems to saying, 'If you have difficulty with the idea of One descended from heaven to reveal God, how will you cope with the still more radical revelation when the Son of Man returns to where he has come from via a cross!" (Brendan Byrne) Peter's response, under the influence of the Holy Spirit (v. 63), is the faith of the Church: Jesus is the One who was *"with God in the beginning" (1:1-3)*, who has become one with us in the flesh, and in whose death and resurrection we share. Our assent to these truths is manifest in our

'Amen' on presenting to receive Holy Communion. With Peter, we thereby claim that there is no other source of the fullness of life. Of course, that assent needs to be backed up with action reflective of our claim to be disciples. The lockdown prevents our gathering for Mass. We cannot gather and thereby affirm our shared faith, we cannot let the proclamation of the Word of God and the homily 'breaking it open' both challenge and comfort us, we cannot receive the Bread of Life under the eucharistic form of bread and wine, we cannot chat afterwards. Sadly, outside of lockdown many cannot gather for Mass on a weekly basis. However, rather than just lament what cannot be on the basis of founded health restrictions, might we consider how to nurture our faith. We can all reflect on the Sunday readings, we can spend time in prayer each day being mindful at this time of the people of Haiti and Afghanistan, we can communicate with loved ones and look to the welfare of our neighbours. We can get vaccinated and counter spurious arguments not to do so. We can ensure that we eat well and maintain an exercise regime. Other possibilities will arise for each of us. I was reminded of the graced opportunities in these challenging times in the following prayer shared at the start of a recent online meeting with dedicated Catholic Education Office personnel:

Loving Creator,

We asked for strength, and you gave us difficulties to make us strong. We asked for wisdom, and you gave us problems to solve. We asked for prosperity, and you gave us purpose and brains to use. We asked for courage, and you gave us fears to overcome. We asked for patience, and you gave us situations where we were forced to wait. We asked for love, and you gave us troubled people to help. We asked for justice, and you called us to be just and lead with integrity. Lord, we have received nothing that we asked for or wanted. And yet, we receive everything that we needed. For this we give thanks.

LOCKDOWN: During lockdown Holy Trinity Church will be closed and the regular weekday and Sunday Masses will not be celebrated. Further details are noted on the church doors. Our two parish schools will remain open for those unable to provide care for their children. Students at home and those presenting at school will be engaged with the remote learning model.

AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC COALITION FOR CHURCH REFORM (ACCCR) is holding the second of three online convocations, 'Outcomes and Actions for the Plenary Council', Thurs 26 August, 7.30-9.00pm. To be opened by Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr, with Speakers Dr Jesse Rogers, Ms Debra Zanella, Mr Robert Fitzgerald and Mr John Warhurst. All welcome. Register at <u>auscathocoalition@gmail.com</u>

ARCHDIOCESAN WOMEN'S TASKFORCE 'MARY MAGDALENE DINNER' commences 6.30pm, Fri 3 Sept, Southern Cross Club, Woden. Three course meal \$65. Bookings essential at <u>http://bit.ly/MaryMagdaleneDinner</u>

MISSION: ONE HEART, MANY VOICES VIRTUAL CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY 1 – FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2021 We are seeking to sponsor an interested parishioner to attend this virtual conference organised by Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Mission. Participants will experience a diverse range of international and local speakers (see attached poster). Through an open mind, heart and will, embracing curiosity, compassion and courage, participants will explore opportunities for mission. If you are interested in representing our parish, please contact Fr John (0418 208 129).

TIM FISCHER ORATION with John Anderson AO addressing *'Ethics in Public and Political Life'* next Thursday, 26 August, Great Hall of Parliament House has been rescheduled for August 2022. Those who purchased tickets would have received a refund by now.

PARISH MEDITATION GROUP meets weekly. Contact Vikki: <u>mulvaney@netspeed.com.au</u> or 0437 876 487.

Prayer Circle Support: Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

Readings for next Sunday: 28-29 August, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B); Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23