



Gospel Mt 17:1-9

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.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

We have to get rid of the idea that the soul is a dot of energy in some hidden core of our body. In fact, the body is in the soul. There is no part of my body which is not immersed in my soul. It is my whole person, bodysoul, which needs to be saved. As Thomas Aquinas says: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.'

Today's Gospel does not portray an out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Further, this transfiguration was not a solitary experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it precisely because it told them what our Heavenly Father desired as their destiny beyond martyrdom, if only they would listen to Jesus.

Heavenly salvation will involve my whole person, bodysoul, being transformed. But could a person, during their earthly existence, share in the transfiguration experience of Christ?

We could pause for a moment to 'Google' or otherwise get hold of my favourite story of a saint – St Seraphim of Sarov – and pray that we may share with his disciple the bodily experience of 'immeasurable wellbeing' – 'infinite joy in our hearts'.

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The Living Word

Transfiguration

6 August 2023

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

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.

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

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.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
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Web: www.pol.org.au/sunshine/Home.aspx

Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Wednes 10am - 4.00pm; Fri 10am -3.00pm.

Sunday Masses: *English* - Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* Sundays 2.30pm; *Tongan* TBC

Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm

Mass Times: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm

Confessions: Saturdays 9.30am (*English or Vietnamese*) **Novena:** Tuesday 8.00pm



Refresher series on the Catholic Faith

You are invited to join us for a short video presentation on THE LAST THINGS & discussion.

Wednesday 9 August @ 7pm - 8.30pm
 in the Church. *All Welcome!*



MASS INTENTIONS 5-12 August

Sat 5.30pm Paul, Amelia & Giovanni Ruberto RIP

Sun 9.00am Patrick Sheridan RIP
 10.30am Giuseppe Mesiti RIP
 Connie Whitby

5.30pm *Pro Populo*

Mon 9am Fr Marcus Anandanpulle OMI (2009) RIP

Tues *St Mary of the Cross Feast Day*

7.30pm Parish Intention

Wed 9.00am Parish Intention

Thur 9.00am Parish Intention

Fri 11.00am Susan Haboc - Healing

Sat 9.00am Parish Intention

DONATIONS to support
 our parish **SCAN** this QR
Thank you!



*"Come to me all you who
 labour and carry a heavy
 burden."*

Matthew 11:28-30

**You are invited to come
 and spend some
 quiet time with
 Jesus in the
 Blessed Sacrament:
 Fridays
 12noon until 3pm.**



**VINNIES WINTER APPEAL for
 the poor and needy
 Donations - Envelopes
 in foyer of the church**

Week 2: <i>Aug 12/13</i>	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Mary Rapa	Althea D'Souza	Tongan Choir	Melizza Boongaling
Extraordinary Ministers	Simplex & Blezza Borges	Sr. Shirani Britto	Jennifer Godfrey	Celine Rivera
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Tongan Choir	Eleazar Boongaling

TUESDAY AUGUST 15 - Feast of the Assumption

Parish Masses: **ENGLISH:** 6.30pm **VIETNAMESE:** 8.00pm

(School Mass 9.00am *Novena to Our Lady* 7.15pm between Masses)

REPAIR of OUTDOOR SHRINE OF Our Lady Time to fix broken tiles
Statue temporarily will move indoors and old tiles taken off & put new on.

Majestic Voice:

*Scott Hahn Reflects on the Feast of the
 Transfiguration of the Lord*

Readings: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9;*
2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

High on the holy mountain in today's Gospel, the true identity of Jesus is fully revealed in His transfiguration. Standing between Moses and the prophet Elijah, **Jesus is the bridge that joins the Law of Moses to the prophets and psalms.**

As Moses did, Jesus climbs a mountain with three named friends and beholds God's glory in a cloud. As Elijah did, He hears God's voice on the mountain. Elijah was prophesied to return as the herald of the Messiah and the Lord's new covenant.

Jesus is revealed today as that Messiah.

By His death and resurrection, which He intimates today to the Apostles, **He makes a new covenant with all creation.**

The majestic voice declares Jesus to be God's own beloved Son, in whom the Father is well pleased. God here gives us a glimpse of His inner life. In the cloud of the Holy Spirit, the Father reveals His love for the Son, and invites us to share in that love as His beloved sons and daughters.

Shadowed by the clouds of heaven, His clothes dazzling white,

Jesus is the Son of Man whom Daniel foresees being enthroned in today's First Reading.

He is the king, the Lord of all the earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

But is He truly the Lord of our hearts and minds?

The last word God speaks from heaven today is a command—"Listen to Him".

The Word of the Lord should be like a lamp shining in the darkness of our days, as Peter tells us in today's Second Reading.

How well are we listening? Do we attend to His word each day?

Let us today rededicate ourselves to listening. Let us hear Him as **the word of life, the bright morning star of divine life waiting to arise in our hearts.**



Child Safety Reminders & Important notice for Parents

- Please accompany your child if they need to leave the building.
- Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.

Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and vulnerable people.