



SEASONS

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza

The Transfiguration of the Lord-Year A

August 6th 2023



Dear Friends,

Israel is a land of extremes. In the south there are barren deserts, sheer cliff faces and the vast expanse of the dead sea. The north of Israel—the home of Galilee and towns like Nazareth is completely different. Rolling green pastures, freshwater lakes, rivers, waterfalls and mountains mark the landscape. Scripture scholars hold that Jesus was transfigured on the Mount Tabor, which rises nearly 600 metres above sea level. Until the sealed roadway was built in the 1900's, pilgrims had to climb the 2,000 or so steps cut out of the rockface in order to reach its summit. Today on the summit is a beautiful church dedicated to the transfiguration, constructed in 1924. The church gardens contain established plants and trees from all over the world. In my opinion, the Mount of Transfiguration is one of the most beautiful sacred places in all of the Holy Land. Going up the summit takes effort and energy. As the world below disappears, things seem to slow down. Being on top of the mountain makes heaven seem so much closer than earth. Your perspective changes. Looking down the mountain the busy world below seems so much small and insignificant. Time seems to change too. It is easy to see how the disciples experienced that transfiguration many years ago.

For the vast majority of his life Jesus divinity was hidden, even disguised, beneath his humanity. For most of the people who met him, Jesus appeared to be an ordinary man. When Our Lord preached or taught in the crowds, there was nothing overwhelmingly other wordly about him. The vast majority of times when Jesus healed the sick his appearance did not change. On Good Friday we hear prophet of Isaiah describe the Christ in this way: *Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes; a thing despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with.* Because Jesus appeared to be so ordinary, he was relatable and non threatening to his listeners. In fact, Jesus appeared to be *so* ordinary that he was condemned as being a liar, a dangerous political revolutionary and a threat to good religion.

But for a few precious moments in his life Jesus glory and true identity was fully revealed to a chosen few. The transfiguration on Mount Tabor would be the moment that would strengthen Jesus and his disciples for his trial, crucifixion and execution. This would be the moment they would return to, again and again, to remind themselves of who Jesus really is, and what God could do in their lives. The light and glow of the mountain would give strength and consolation to those moments of darkness in the valley.

The transfiguration is very important for us too. If we are to take up our cross and follow Jesus to his suffering and glory, sheer willpower will not be enough to motivate us. Information – facts and figures are not enough to follow Jesus all the way to the cross. Like the disciples, we need to have an experience where heaven meets earth – where we experience the beauty, truth and goodness of God. These moments which touch the heart leave a deep impression and give us strength to follow God not as a mysterious abstract, but a personal reality.

How can we experience the transfiguration? One way is through art – painted, written, spoken and played. Theologians have spoken about how true beauty leads to goodness which leads to truth. *The Transfiguration* by Raphael is a great example of how art connects us to the mystical and spiritual. The painting is based on the

**311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
Phone: 9787 7777**

**Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au
Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>**

Parish Priest:

Rev. Fr. Patrick Bradford

Secretary: Ann Hancock

Office Days/Hours:

Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm

Friday 9.30am to 4pm

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford

Ruth Hilton Joe Sayah

Emma Chapple Sandra Taylor

Kathy Raccanello

See your happy team on the Notice Board!

Church Services from 7th August

Tuesday	Mass	5.30pm
Tuesday	Adoration	6.00pm

Wednesday *	Mass	10.00am
-------------	------	---------

Thursday*	Mass	10.00am
-----------	------	---------

Friday	Adoration	9.00am
--------	-----------	--------

Friday	Mass	10.00am
--------	------	---------

*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass. **Sunday Masses**

Saturday Vigil	5.00pm
----------------	--------

Sunday	8.00am
--------	--------

Sunday	10.00am
--------	---------

Reconciliation

Tuesday	6.00pm -7.00pm
---------	----------------

Friday	9.30am -10.00am
--------	-----------------

Saturday	4.30pm - 5.00pm
----------	-----------------

Tuesday, 14th of August Mass will be at 10am and 5.30pm for the Feast of the Assumption.

St Thomas More acknowledges the Bunurong people as the Traditional owners of the land on which we live, work and worship. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.

**We
pray
for.....**

**Those who have passed away recently...
Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**



George (Fredrick) Alsop, Michelle Collins, Edna Oakes, Catherine Vines, James Cameron, Maria Lindner, Dan Dee, Anne Green, Terry Meehan, Tom Cookesley, Les Harper, Christine Jager

The sick... Adrian Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, John Spirason, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Betty Corke, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Rosalie McKiernan, Sue Emerton, Jimmy and Gary Lakeman, Anneliese Rose, Charlie Ebsworth, Noel Anstey, Mary Doherty, Annette O'Brian Patrick
Guest and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and the parishioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequinomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.

Parish Mission on September 18, 19 and 20 from 7:30-8:30pm



We are excited to be hosting international speaker John Pridmore for a Parish Mission to be run in late September. John has spoken to millions around the world about his past and remarkable conversion. He has inspired countless individuals through his powerful talks, conferences and parish missions. John was a serious "face" in London's East End. His drug deals netted him thousands; he lived the 'high' life ... when he found himself nearly killing a man. What happened next can only be called extraordinary.

MISSION NIGHTS

John has given over 250 missions in parishes. Please join us for these nights:

Monday 18 September

NIGHT 1: GOD'S LOVE

Tuesday 19 September

NIGHT 2: GOD'S MERCY

Wednesday 20 September

NIGHT 3: GOD'S HEALING

To hear more, we warmly invite you to join us and John on the three mission nights held in the Church Each night will include a talk by John, music and scripture readings, and a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. To prepare for the mission, John will briefly address the congregations at the three Sunday Masses. We are planning for John to speak at our local Catholic Schools and invite the students to join us for the mission nights.

If any parishioner is interested in helping to plan, promote and host this significant event please contact the Parish Office to be put in touch with the Parish Mission Organising Committee. More information about John and the Melbourne tour available on the website www.jpเมลบ.com.au

Parish Social Function

**Please join us for lunch
12.30pm on Wednesday 16th August
Canadian Bay Hotel
Mt Eliza.**

A great chance to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones.



Dear friends,
Thanks to your very generous support we have raised a total of \$4,750 to support Matthew and Charles Sayah on their World Youth Day pilgrimage. This was split between donations, the contribution for the dinner at 1001 nights, and sales of auction items. The generous support of parishioners has enabled World Youth Day to be feasible and accessible for our two young pilgrims. We look forward to



Safeguarding Committee

For information:
Julie Carter 0420 923 859

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority.



Frankston Winter Shelter

Frankston Winter Shelter is a local church initiative based on the model by Stable One. The concept is to provide crisis shelter for the homeless in the Frankston area. The winter shelter has several goals:

- To provide food and shelter for those in immediate need
- To provide a safe place where the love of Christ is demonstrated
- To assist in creating a sense of community that will extend beyond the simple meeting of physical needs and to bring together the local churches in a unified purpose; allowing churches to build on existing services and partner together
- To mobilise the wider church community and raise awareness of the issues in their local area.

Click to see more about getting involved [Winter Shelter Flyer Seaford St Annes](#). Or check out the flyer in the foyer



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 gospels, and plays on the light and darkness that we experience in our own lives. At the bottom of the picture are the nine disciples who are attempting (unsuccessfully) to heal a man afflicted by an evil spirit while the other three have been taken up the mountain. The figure in the blue robe on the bottom left is likely to be Matthew. He consults a book but cannot find the solution to cure the young man. Knowledge and words, information without the power of the Holy Spirit are not effective. The young disciple in the yellow robe is Philip. To Philip's right, in the red robe, is Andrew. The man behind Andrew, pointing to the sick boy, is Judas Thaddeus, and the older man to his left is Simon. The disciples are unable to heal the young man. This may explain why the disciple in red is pointing towards Jesus on top of the mountain. It is only through the power of God, revealed in Christ that we find hope and healing. The sick young man on the right has a blue cloth wrapped around his middle and looks very pale while making a wild gesture. You can see that his eyes are looking in different directions. The man behind him in the green robe is his father who is holding him, and he looks at the disciples with hope and fear at the same time. We too can find ourselves confounded and conflicted before the mystery of sickness, suffering and pain.

In the top half, Christ floats toward the source of light- the Invisible Father, by whom all is made visible. His arms are raised prefiguring the crucifixion and the ascension. On either side is Moses and Elijah, the former the law giver and the latter the 'spontaneous, fiery, eagle eyed prophet'. The three apostles prostrate themselves in awe of this unapproachable glory. John gracefully lowers his face in honour while on the other end James hides his face in humility. But Peter, undaunted, courageously gazes upwards. Struck by splendor and truth, he appears to cover his eyes, involuntarily with his hand. The clouds behind Jesus are illuminated and they are almost too bright to look at directly – we too cannot look at God face to face without being cleansed of our sins and being in complete friendship with God.

The image of the transfiguration shows how Jesus bridges the link between Heaven and Earth; that his light and power reach every corner of the world, and of our own lives. The three disciples on the mountain represent faith, hope, and love – the three theological virtues that we need in our lives. The scene at the bottom half of the painting symbolises the inability of us to do anything good without the trust in God's providence, power and strength – symbolised by the pure white light of the sun.



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.

Penitential Act

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,

And, striking their breast, they say:
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. Amen

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.

First Reading Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

His robe was as white as snow.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96:

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

Second reading 2 Peter 1:16-19

We heard this voice from out of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 17:5

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

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

Apostles Creed

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.

The mystery of faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess
your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon

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

Next Sunday's Readings:

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: I Kings 19: 9, 11-13

2nd Reading: Romans 9: 1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-33