Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
5th / 6th August 2017

Parish Clergy
Fr Gabriel Murray

Parish Office
Fran Kernaghan
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9.00 am – 2.00 pm
Phone: 60251516
Fax: 60404016
Web: http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/

Mass Times
SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm
SUNDAY: 9.30 am
WEEKDAYS: 9.30 am
Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Church)

RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM
BAPTISMS—By appointment.
Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

In the midst of Ordinary Time we are invited to behold the transfiguration of Christ. By some horrible coincidence, we recall Christ's brilliance on the day that the world marks another cosmic event, its birth into the atomic age at Hiroshima. The paradox of these events should not be lost on us. The white light that shone from Christ was a mere suggestion of the divine splendour that is beyond human comprehension; the flashing light from the atomic explosion was an omen of the destructive force that is within human grasp. It is imperative that the horror of the latter be brought under the control of the glory of the former.

The transfiguration was a moment in time when Jesus' divine glory broke through his humanity and shone with a brilliance that was blinding. We sing of this glory time and again in the psalms. Yet when it really appears we can hardly believe it ourselves. The readings outline three different moments when this glory was revealed. The first was reported by the visionary in the book of Daniel. The second moment was the scene of the transfiguration. The third is hidden in the resurrection testimony of the author of the Letter of Peter.

We are the ones who today possess the prophetic message; we are the present day eyewitnesses of Christ's majesty. We too have moments when we might behold his glory and hear the voice proclaiming his identity, but we need eyes of faith and ears that are open.

(Dianne Bergant CSS)
A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):
‘There are many people in need in today’s world. Am I self-absorbed in my own concerns or am I aware of those who need help?’

We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:
RECENTLY DECEASED: Paul Hunter, Anne Healy, John Fealy, Pauline Carlaw.
ANNIVERSARIES: Beatrice Walker, Christopher Burdak, John Miles, Catherine Hickman, Richard Bye, Nellie Gaudry, Cecil Webster, Peter Yensch, Cindy Rohick, Jack Parker, May Hudson, Lila O’Leary, Sally Guthrie, Patrick Roche, Frank Grice, Pat Sheehan, Lena Tregupis, Beverley Bungey, Charlie Cramer, Bob Phefley, Allan Whitty, Margaret O’Rourke.
Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK**
We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God’s presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.
May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.
We offer our prayers believing that God’s presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen

**PRAYER FOR THE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**
Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.
Lord kindly on all candidates preparing for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them.
As these students prepare for Confirmation, make each of them an instrument of Your love.
Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others and be patient with what we do not understand.
Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that you will continue to guide us and sustain us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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‘There are many people in need in today’s world. Am I self-absorbed in my own concerns or am I aware of those who need help?’
Prayer for Our Sacred Heart Parish

God of Love,
Source of all hope and good things;
You call us in love, to share in the work and ongoing life of our Sacred Heart Parish.

Bless this parish of ours and lead us to be confident and joyful in serving those around us, so that through us, the world may catch a glimpse of the love you have for each one of us.

Make us instruments of your love to everyone that we encounter in our parish community, at home, at work and in our neighbourhood.

Help us to grow in gratitude so that we can recognise and thank you for all the good things you have given us.

Each day may we come to know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Community Thanksgiving for Fr Kevin Flanagan
All are welcome to attend St Matthew’s Church Albury on Sunday 6th August at 5pm.

Fr Gabriel Murray will be caring for our parish over the next month until our next Parish Priest is appointed. Fr. Murray in another life was Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wagga and has been helping out in the Wilcannia Forbes Diocese. We wish him well during his time with us.

Weekday Masses
Weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Church at 9.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PLEASE NOTE: As Tuesday is the Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Patron Saint of Australia, there will be Mass at 9.30am in the Church as well.

Diocesan Spirituality Day for Women—26 August.
At Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga 9.30am-3.30pm. Registration closes 15 August. Register on line: https://goo.gl/LTSBaj
Phone: Margaret Walsh 02 6971 7140, Katherine Klapdor 02 6925 4374.

Diocesan Retreat at Galong. 8-12 September 2017.
Further details: Sr. Margaret Walsh pbvm. 02 6971 7140 or mmwalsh@wagga.net.au

ASCEND—DEEP PRAYER MINI COURSE.
How is your prayer life? ASCEND is an amazing and fruitful mini-course on prayer that shows you how to launch a deep and powerful prayer-life whether you are a beginner or a seasoned pro. Coming to Wagga in September. Look for the Posters in the church.

Feast Days
Tuesday 8th August —St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Wednesday 9th August—St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
Thursday 4th August—St Lawrence
Friday 11th August—St Clare
Saturday 12th August—St Jane Frances de Chantal

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Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.
Transfiguration of the Lord — Year A

Readings: Dan 7: 9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1: 16-19; Matt 17: 1-9

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight;

listen to him.

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Reading

Three key people of the Old Testament are given to us in today’s readings: Abram, Moses and Elijah. Unfortunately most of what we know about these men is fairly sketchy. Who can blame the young children, then, who wrote the following answers in an exam on the Old Testament?

‘Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The First was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth was to always humour thy father and mother.’

The Jews of Matthew’s community, however, would have been able to remember by heart every detail about Abram, Moses and Elijah. These men remain the Jews’ greatest heroes. The first hearers of the Transfiguration story would have immediately made all the connections between Jesus’ story and Abram, Moses and Elijah’s experience of God on a mountaintop, where each has a life-changing encounter with the presence of God and is illuminated in every way. Each of them is called by God to fulfil a special task and so descend from the mountain with the strength to see it through.

Matthew is especially interested in the story of Moses. One of the refrains of the entire Gospel is that Jesus is the New Moses, the fulfilment of the law and the light that illuminates the darkest night. As interesting as the similarities are between Moses on Sinai and Jesus on Tabor, the differences are even more revealing for us.

Moses goes up the mountain alone, Jesus takes companions with him who share in the experience and witness to it. The face of God is hidden from Moses whereas on Tabor Jesus is given to us as the face of God for the world. On Sinai Moses receives a code of law and is told to make sure the people obey it. On Tabor Jesus receives a proclamation of God’s love and we’re told to listen to him. While Moses’ face shines, Jesus’ whole body is transfigured with light. Moses descends to enforce the law; Jesus comes down to die that we might live.

On a much gentler scale, Sunday Mass is meant to be a weekly mountaintop experience for us where we hear God call us by name and confess his love for us; where we feel re-energised for the commission we have to bear his light to the world.

The God of Mount Tabor is not interested in each of us feeling isolated as we fulfil the letter of a legal code. He wants all of us to have hearts that listen to the Gospel of love so that we can gain the power to transform the world through the sacrifices of our daily lives. (Fr Richard Leonard SJ)