

## 'TRANSFIGURATION' – HOMILY - 5 AUGUST 2017

Earlier in the year we reflected on the Gospel passage of Matthew 17:1-9, during the season of Lent. We gazed from Peter's position, and our similarities to Peter. The Transfiguration is dated six days after Peter messed up. Six days of soul-searching, yet staying in the company of Jesus. Six days later he becomes a **witness to the power of God** And to a deepening realisation of Jesus in his life.

Today we ponder again on the Transfiguration. Jesus chooses Peter and James and John to go up the mountain with him. Hearing the Voice from heaven **repeat the words from when Jesus was baptised**, the Voice from heaven adds the words *"listen to him"*.

### REFLECTION FROM EARLIER THIS YEAR

*"When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying 'Get up and do not be afraid.'" Matthew 17:6-7*

Overcome by fear can be translated "terrified greatly" Their eyes are cast down. Jesus reaches out to them. He comes nearer to them, touches them in reassurance, and speaks to them.

Let us pause and consider how Jesus **COMES** to us in our fears, our anxiety, our troubles; **REACHES OUT** to touch our lives; **ALLAYS** our fears; **INVITES** us to raise our eyes once more to him. How God gives us another chance.

Let us not forget what Peter, James and John saw of Jesus:

*"And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white."*

Let us recall the moments when we feel a light within us as Jesus touches us in holiness. The moments of utter joy, graced by God. The love of God that we feel. Knowing deep within, that in God's gaze upon us - We are beloved.

And knowing that whether in the peak "mountain top" moments of life, or in the moments of daily life, Jesus is with us.

### THIS SUNDAY

With this second opportunity during 2017 to reflect on this Gospel We note that in: Matthew 17:9 they are coming down the mountain and are instructed by Jesus in dialogue. Matthew 17:14 a father approaches Jesus to heal his son who suffers from epilepsy.

From this account of Matthew our faith includes moments of experiencing

- **INTIMACY WITH JESUS**  
(compared with the Transfiguration)
- **OVERCOMING OUR FEARS**  
(compared with the 3 disciples falling to the ground in fear, and Jesus touches them and reassures them)
- **COMING BACK TO DAILY LIFE**  
(compared with Jesus and the disciples coming down the mountain)
- **CONTINUAL ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION WITH JESUS** on our faith in Him, lived out in our daily lives.  
(compared to the dialogue between Jesus and the disciples on Elijah)
- **REACHING OUT TO A WORLD NEEDING GOD'S HEALING.**  
(compared to the response of Jesus to the father and the healing of his son)

#### **AUSTRALIAN PLENARY COUNCIL 2020.**

Last Sunday the forthcoming national Plenary Council was mentioned.

How will we be faithful to those points from Matthew's Gospel 17

- 1) Intimacy with God as Australian disciples
- 2) Overcoming our fears as Australian Catholics
- 3) Keeping the connect between our intimate prayer moments and the commitments and work and responsibilities and leisure of our daily lives as Australian Catholics
- 4) Analysis and Reflection on our Church in Australia as Jesus wants it to be.
- 5) Our mission to share in the ministry of Jesus in healing the world around us.  
Who is seeking healing? How do we reach out and minister?  
What are the injustices and sin that we need to heal?

#### **LINKS TO PLENARY 2020 & INDIGENOUS CONTRIBUTIONS**

On our parish website, you can find:

- The mandate for the Plenary Council
- The membership of the executive committee
- The names of the Facilitator and two Facilitation Team Members
- A reflection on church as synodal by Fr Noel Connolly, a Team member.

<http://www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com/plenary.html>

Flowing on from last week's example between the 2018 NATSICC Assembly and the 2020 Plenary Council,

there are links to reflections on **Indigenous contributions to the wider church, and some of the challenges acknowledged.** <http://bit.ly/UncleDavidAoC>

#### **PRAYER**

Beginning on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September this year until the completion of the Plenary Council in 2020, our parish will host a time of prayer on Friday nights 7pm - 8pm. Usually it will be in our parish church of St. Joseph and St. Anthony. You are invited to come and pray for all your intentions. The Plenary Council will be one of the intentions. Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – Transfiguration – 5 August 2017]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/073017.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook06082017>]