

# WE ARE WITNESSES TO GOD'S LOVE TRANSFIGURED IN OUR LIVES

2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – 13 MARCH 2022



## GOD SPEAKS TO US ALL THE TIME

Toni Janke is one of the Brisbane Archdiocese's representatives to the national Plenary Council.

She says in the current [Archdiocesan Weekly Reflection](#) that in today's Gospel passage:

*"Today's reading reminds us that God speaks to us all the time.  
We don't see Him, but we can hear His voice – if we are willing to listen.  
In this way, like Jesus and the disciples,  
we are transformed through our encounter with God.*

*Yet, it is our quest for a deeper faith that can often challenges us –  
a human dilemma that Christ overcame through his ultimate sacrifice.*

*Perhaps we hear God's voice, but do we completely and unreservedly trust  
in the fulfilment of His plan for us and for all of humanity?  
Or are we fearful, like the disciples on the mountain?*

*This is the question we must continually ponder  
in a world that is full of turmoil and chaos.*

*We can never see the full picture of God's plan for humanity.  
Instead, we are asked to trust Him through faith –  
just as Christ completely trusted in God's plan.*

*So, as we go about the week ahead, may be attentive, awake and alert.  
I pray that we may hear and trust God's voice and affirm and accept  
His plan for humanity of which Jesus Christ is the true fulfilment."*

## WHEN WE PRAY, THERE IS A PAST, A PRESENT AND A FUTURE

A PAST – *The presence of God in our lives leading up to this sacred moment.*

### ***When we pray, there is a past, a present and a future***

Before today's Reading of the Transfiguration in Luke, Chapter 9

- Jesus has already been baptised,
- has faced the temptations in the desert over 40 days,
- announced his mission and been rejected in his home town,
- called the apostles to follow him,
- healed several people,
- challenged the Pharisees and scribes,
- preached the Beatitudes and taught in parables,
- grieved for the death of John the Baptist,
- been recognised by Peter as the "Christ of God",
- was training his followers as disciples,
- had declared to his disciples that he will suffer, die and on the third day be raised from the dead.

He withdrew for moments of prayer regularly.

The events listed above were a background, **a past** before the transfiguration.

### A PRESENT – *The Gospel of Luke 9:28-36*

Jesus withdrew from the busyness of his ministry so that he could pray.  
We reflect on our need to withdraw at times so that we can pray.

This time, he invited three apostles.

He invited Peter, James and John to accompany him up the mountain.

He didn't invite the whole group.

He invited three disciples who would become witnesses and would share much later with others what had happened.

The Transfiguration gives us an insight into a sacred moment when Jesus was in prayer.

In this sacred time Moses and Elijah were discussing with Jesus

- his exodus (translated here as 'departure')
- and his fulfilling of his exodus (translated here as 'accomplish')

A cloud came over them and the disciples became afraid, terrified.

When God calls us into the unknown and invites us to trust in God, we too could be become frightened on entering the unknown.

The three disciples were very tired yet they stayed awake and witnessed this sacred moment.

We need to persevere as well.

We note what the Voice of God said.

*'Then from the cloud came a voice that said,  
'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' '*

Examples of the transfiguration in our lives include:

- when God shines the divine light onto our secrets,  
on our inner-most thoughts,  
on our past deeds,  
on what we did not do,
- when God transfigures the love within us,
- when God dazzles us with the divine healing power
- when God uplifts and gives us the courage to continue,
- when God reveals how He has already held us and supported us.

It is this light of God that shines on Jesus and reveals God's love during his mission, his exodus, his journey, his service.

In our lives and in our prayer,  
we are called to an intimate loving relationship with God.  
We pause and recall some of those intimate moments?

**[Pause]**

[A FUTURE](#) – *Coming down the mountain and back into the busyness of life*

We are a part of God's plan. We are not alone.  
Such moments don't have to be physically on a mountain.  
We too find the courage, strengthened by God,  
to go back down the mountain and live life  
as followers and disciples of Jesus along the winding road before us.

God empowers us to go down the mountain again – back into everyday life.  
Jesus accompanies us down and into life.  
We are changed through these intimate experiences of God,  
So that we can love more fully, see more clearly, and witness more genuinely.

[A WITNESS](#)

Some years I was on a flight,  
and the passenger next to me was in prayer most of the time.

She was praying to God for her sister  
who was critically ill and was pregnant.  
The baby was given little chance of survival.  
The passenger inspired me by her sacred time of prayer.

It wasn't the shining white brightness of the transfiguration on the mountain,  
but it was the sacredness of God's love serenely present  
in this person's deep prayerfulness.

The coming down from the mountain for her was the plane landing at the airport, her journey to the hospital to see her sister, and her presence with her sister and brother-in-law over the days ahead.

Her sister survived and regained her health. The baby survived birth, received an emergency baptism, and is now a healthy adult.

I was blessed to be a witness, and as a witness, thirty- four years later, I was privileged last week to share with her family, the story of God listening to this remarkable woman of faith.

#### WITNESSES TO GOD'S LOVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

Last Sunday the parents of 54 children made a public commitment to accompany their children in preparation for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist this year.

They are *witnesses to God's love for their children*.

Last night at 6pm Mass, another 3 children were presented by parents. Today at 9.30am Mass, another 8 children are presented by parents.

*Remembering and treasuring our transfiguration moments of love, how will we witness to God's love this week?*

Let us now pray.

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/031322.cfm>