

**6 August 2023
THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD YEAR A**



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.

First Reading from the book
of Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14

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.

Second Reading from the
second letter of St Peter 2
Peter 1:16-19

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 17:1-9

Communion Antiphon

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

**NEXT WEEK
13 AUGUST 2023
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

First Reading:

1 Kings 19:9.11-13

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

Vocations Awareness Week

Begins on August 6

“Lord, it is good that we are here.” It is always good to be in the presence of God.

- coinciding as always with the feast of Australia’s first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. This is a reminder that we are all called to be saints, which is to say that we are called through our baptism to follow Jesus in his way of love. This universal call then manifests uniquely in God’s plan for each one of us. In the words of Pope Francis:

“Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small domestic church and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops – placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God...The Church is a vocational “symphony”, with every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in “going forth” to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God”

(Message for 2023 World Day of Prayer for Vocations).

For help discerning your specific vocational path, contact Fr Duane Fernandez, Vocations Director, at vocations@dow.org.au – he would love to hear from you!

THANK YOU OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL.



Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12

Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176

Email: varroville@dow.org.au

Website: varroville.dow.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr “Sam” Ransom Rapirap OCD

Parish Associate: Sr “Jill” Girle Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Dolores Doyle, Petar Petrinovic, Catherine Crawford, Shirley Chitty,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: William Parsons, Francisco Turingan, Fr Peter Caruana, Anne La Spina
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

13 August	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Sarah, Martin & Violeti	Betty & Boby
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail	Orly, Fisilose & Claire	Vu, Samantha & Nathan
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Gabriel & Ofa	Tim, Volunteer
Refreshments	Estela & Margaret	Karen, Katalina & Tess	
CLOTW		Lee, Emma & Samantha	
Flowers	Sr Ines, Katalina	Church Vacuuming	Pawan & Effie
Counters	George & Wendy	Foyer Cleaning	Wicks Family

Our Community Notices

Fiesta Final meeting: Monday 7 August at 7.30pm in the meeting room. The purpose of this meeting is to evaluate our recent Fiesta.

Mass for the Feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on Tuesday 8 August will be held at 9am and 7.30pm.

For the Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Tuesday 15 August will also be held at 9am and 7.30pm

Confirmation preparation sessions will commence on Saturday 12 August. Registration is essential at the parish office.

Bible Study Course: Commencing on Thursday 17 August for 7 weeks; The Gospel of John presented on DVD by a Passionist Priest. Printed Materials will be provided. For further info and to register call the parish office. All are welcome.



Bulletin Notices

Alpha Update: The Come & See Night on Tuesday was well attended and Alpha groups will start meeting this coming week in the homes of some of our Alpha Team.. Its not too late to join in and for more information call the parish office. The times are: Monday at 7pm in St Andrews; Tuesday at 7pm in Minto; Wednesday morning at 9.45 in the parish and Wednesday at 6.30pm in Varroville.

Bible study and discussion group will be held in our meeting room every Monday morning after the 9.am Mass. Bring your bible and contact the parish office for more information.

Parish Retreat Day on Saturday 26 August: Parish Retreat Day: Fr Aloysius Rego will present on Saturday 26 August from 9am Mass till 3pm. The topic will be Prayer in the Carmelite Perspective. Please register at the Parish office.

Childrens Ministry Get together: All children aged 7+ years are invited on Sunday 27 August from 3—5pm for Children's activities in the parish meeting room. The group will continue to meet on the 4th Sunday of each month. Children's choir will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7.30pm. For more information call the parish office.

Feast of the Assumption at Ingleburn Church; You are invited for the solemn Mass on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the celebration of India's Independence Day at 6pm on Tuesday 15 August at Holy Family Church Ingleburn. Please bring a plate for supper after the Mass.

Overshadowed: Filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit, 6pm Friday 18 - 2pm Sunday 20 August; Join the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters on a weekend retreat exploring what happens when we say yes to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life- changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit. Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville Bookings: trybooking.com/CFBQX (by 11 August). Contact: Katherine - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program 2024

Applications for our Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program 2024 are now officially open! If you have a strong desire to deepen your faith, acquire practical leadership skills, theological knowledge, and spiritual formation to effectively serve Christ in today's Church, then our program is specifically designed for you. Please note that spaces for our Foundations of Missionary Leadership program for 2024 are limited and expected to fill quickly. Don't hesitate, take action now to ensure your place! Find out more: <https://www.aretecentre.org/>

Made for More than this - Arete Centre for Missionary Leadership OPEN NIGHT! Join Fr Chris Ryan MGL and an exciting panel of guests including Fr Rob Galea, Fr Simon Lobo, Co-author of Preaching on Purpose and Parish Priest at St Benedict, Halifax, and others, for a wide-ranging conversation about the powerful role lay people can play in the Church's Mission. Guests can also find out more about the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program and how they can enrol for 2024. The Open night takes place on Thursday 17 August 2023

at 7.30 pm. Register at www.aretecentre.org for this free event.

Raising Fathers: Fathering from the Front Line: Speaker: Robert Falzon; Monday 28 August 2023 Level 1, Micah House Resource Centre; 7:00pm–8:30pm Cost: Free; Join other dads and father figures for this special evening event as Robert Falzon unpacks practical advice and shares stories that are powerfully important, impacting, informative and instructional for fathering in today's world. RSVP by 27 August. Enquiries: jude.hennessy@dow.org.au. Register: dow.sh/RF2023

MenALIVE Macarthur Regional Weekend, 9-10 September, Micah House, Campbelltown. Cost \$70 per person (\$50 concession). Come along to our menALIVE weekend and be impacted by an encounter with the Gospel in the presence of other good men seeking to be renewed in faith and life. So many men have had their faith transformed and renewed by the experience of menALIVE, and this is an opportunity for men who have attended a menALIVE regional weekend in the past, and men who haven't, to come together to affirm the words of St Irenaeus all over again: "God is glorified when men are fully alive!" Register: dow.sh/MACampbelltown2023

Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration You are invited to register for the national liturgy and music conference "Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration" hosted by the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network together with the National Liturgical Council, commencing 28 - 30 September 2023 at the Hilton Hotel in Brisbane. This promises to be an outstanding conference for the Australian Catholic community in response to the Pope's call for a "serious and dynamic liturgical formation" within the Catholic church. For all the details, including keynote speakers and workshop presenters, please go to <http://www.mysteryandmission.com.au> You may watch the promotional video here <https://youtu.be/0pyclmMFrGA>

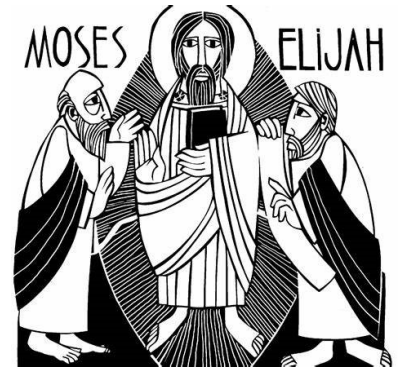
A women's opportunity to experience a Cursillo three-day weekend; A Cursillo weekend will be held at Carmel House, Varroville from Thursday evening 5 October to Sunday afternoon 8 October 2023. To view brochure and find out more, please email cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com or ring Geraldine Dayball on 0421 329 365.

Growing Good Men Father and Teenage Son Weekend Experience 20–22 October 2023 Cataract Scout Camp Appin. One of the most important influences in the lives of men is the relationship they had with their father or significant father figure. The encouragement and affirmation that this relationship could, and should, provide, is a key ingredient for how young men view themselves and embrace their faith and gifts as they take their place in the world. Don't miss this life-changing father and son weekend! Spots are limited to just 25 fathers with their sons aged between 12–and 16 years. This is a unique opportunity for dads and their sons to embark on a quest of discovery with Robert Falzon and the team from menALIVE. Register online <https://www.dow.org.au/events/menalive-growing-good-men-weekend/> or contact Jude Hennessy on 42222407 jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY Pope Francis

This Sunday, the liturgy celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Today's Gospel passage recounts that the Apostles Peter, James and John were witnesses to this extraordinary event. Jesus took them with him "and led them up a high mountain apart" (Mt 17:1) and, while he prayed, his face changed in appearance, "shone like the sun", and "his garments became white as light". Then Moses and Elijah appeared, and began a dialogue with Him. At this point, Peter said to Jesus: "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah" (v. 4). He had not yet finished speaking when a bright cloud enveloped them.

The event of the Lord's Transfiguration offers us a message of hope — thus shall we be, with Him —: it invites us to encounter Jesus, to be at the service of our brothers and sisters.

The disciples' ascent up Mount Tabor leads us to reflect on the importance of disengaging from worldly matters, in order to make a journey toward heaven and to contemplate Jesus. It is a matter of being attentive to the careful and prayerful listening of Christ, the beloved Son of the Father, seeking intimate moments of prayer that allow for the docile and joyful welcoming of the Word of God. In this spiritual ascent, in this disengagement from worldly matters, we are called to rediscover the peaceful and regenerative silence of meditating on the Gospel, on the reading of the Bible, which leads to a destination rich in beauty, splendour and joy. When we meditate in this way, with the Bible in hand, in silence, we begin to feel this interior beauty, this joy that the Word of God engenders in us. In this perspective, the summer season is a providential time to cultivate our task of seeking and encountering the Lord. In this period, students are free of scholastic commitments and many families take their holidays; it is important that in the period of rest and disengagement from daily activities, we can reinforce our strengths of body and soul, by deepening our spiritual journey.

At the end of the stunning experience of the Transfiguration, the disciples came down the mountain (cf. v. 9) with eyes and hearts transfigured by their encounter with the Lord. It is the journey that we too can make. The ever more vibrant rediscovery of Jesus is not the aim in itself, but spurs us to "come down the mountain", energized by the power of the divine Spirit, so as to decide on new paths of conversion and to constantly witness to charity, as the law of daily life. Transformed by Christ's presence and by the ardour of his Word, we will be a concrete sign of the invigorating love of God for all our brothers and sisters, especially for those who are suffering, for those who are lonely and neglected, for the sick and for the multitude of men and women who, in different parts of the world, are humiliated by injustice, abuse and violence.

In the Transfiguration, the voice of the heavenly Father is heard saying: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!" (v. 5). Let us look to Mary, the Virgin of listening, ever ready to welcome and keep in her heart every word of the Divine Son (cf. Lk 2:51).

May our Mother and the Mother of God help us to be in harmony with the Word of God, so that Christ may become light and lodestar throughout our life. Let us entrust to her the holidays of all, so that they may be peaceful and fruitful, but above all the summer of those who cannot go on holiday due to impediments of age, to reasons of health or of work, to economic restrictions or other problems, so that it may be a time of eased tension, gladdened by the presence of friends and of happy moments.