

**Reflection on the Gospel-Feast of the Transfiguration Year A
(Matthew 17:1-9)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The Feast of the Transfiguration takes precedence over the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time and features its own particular readings. Today we are invited to reflect on a transformative moment in the life of Jesus as experienced by his closest followers. It is important to note that Matthew's account of the "transfiguration" is loosely framed by reminders that Jesus is to suffer and eventually to meet a violent death (16:21 and 17:23). It would seem that Jesus' three companions, Peter, James and John, get a glimpse of God's glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God's grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence and opposition to God's reign. They see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God's new and definitive prophet.

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he continues to confront the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the wilderness at the outset of his ministry. He comes to peace with what it involves on the mountain top. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Rather, he and his companions are called to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved of God.

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life to all the earth's inhabitants, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the experience of glory, and come to terms with the personal cost of going all the way to Jerusalem, to the place of victory. We might take time this Sunday to consider the challenges facing us as contemporary disciples. According to the 2017 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFRI) Report, almost three quarters of a billion people have less than \$US1.90 per day to meet all their basic needs for food, shelter and security, even as the gap between rich and poor in our world is widening. Only when we willingly accept the pain of relinquishing our hold on an unfair share of the world's resources will we understand the meaning of this feast.

BULLETIN FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 7th AUGUST 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	10.30AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

READINGS	First: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13
	Second: Romans 9:1-5
	Gospel: Matthew 14:22-23

RECENT DEATHS: Gwen Anglin, Leo McInerney, Fr Kevin Penry SJ, Kevin Maloney.

ANNIVERSARIES: Alex Lowne, Nick Zakynthinos, Bill Maguire, Terese (Tess) Maguire, John McCarty, Hilda Mary Duggan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

Next Week: **Team 10:** P. Saunders.©, M. Saunders

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,561.50
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 345.00
		\$ 2,206.50
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,587.00



EVENTS

Wednesday, 9th August in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

AN INVITATION

Is extended to parishioners to consider joining the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Team which performs a valuable and significant ministry in the Parish.

The RCIA Team accompanies those who are interested in exploring the Catholic faith and seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church.

For further information please contact the Parish Office or Fr Peter on 5332 6611, or John Clonan on 0478 770 598.

“THINKING ABOUT LIVING AND DYING”

Contemplating mortality is not about being prepared to die, it is about being prepared to live...

Living isn't something outside you that you will do one day when you have organised your life a little better. It comes from deep in the centre of yourself. You have to let the life in, there at the deepest part, and live it from the inside out. **DENISE INGE**

EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE PROPOSALS

In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. See flyers on the Notice Board and in the Church foyer.

COUNTING TEAMS

An invitation is extended to parishioners to join, or form, a Parish Counting Team. There are currently 11 teams responsible for counting the Stewardship collections from our weekend Masses. The commitment is for an hour or two on a Sunday or Monday, depending on your availability. We need more to spread the load. A big thank you to those who have offered their support. Please contact Jim at the Parish Office (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday) if you are interested.

2019 YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING

All families are welcome to attend the 2019 Year 7 Information evening on Thursday, 26th October at 7.30 pm which will take place in the College Chapel. Families will hear from the Headmaster, Mt John Crowley, the Director of Junior School, Mr John Richards, and have the opportunity to your the College. Please register your attendance through Trybooking and by clicking on this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/RCPH>

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, and many more. Registration for the September study cycle closes on 28th August—or you can start later in October. There are six study cycles each year, you can start at any one. Study one subject or do more—it's flexible! Details on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (link is on home page), or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or email amandasmith@ballarat.catholic.org.au. See flyers in the church foyer.

CHURCH GROWS, THANKS TO AFRICA

The number of baptised Catholics in the world grew to 1.285 billion, an increase of 1 % year on year, according to the Vatican's yearbook, the 2017 *Annuario Pontificio*. The 2017 edition of the *Statistical Yearbook* reports that the ten countries with the most Catholics account for almost 56% of the world's Catholic population. The top ten Catholic populations are (in order) Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, United States, Italy, France, Colombia, Spain, Democratic Republic of Congo and Argentina. The global Catholic population increased by 7.4 % between 2010 and 2015. Africa was the continent with the largest percentage growth with Catholic numbers increasing by 19.4 % over that period.

PRIVATE BOARD REQUIRED

In Ballarat for four nights a week, Monday—Thursday for a female. If you are able to assist please email rdam@badac.onmicrosoft.com