

Reading Roster

Date:	5th/6th August 2023	The Transfiguration of the Lord	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Neil	Fr PJ	Fr PJ
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Cheryl Kirby	Michael Lloyd	Phillip Saville
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Vicky Walker	Anne Edwards
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Cecilia Hunt	Brian Edwards
Music:	Andrew Wilson	None	Chris Wilson

Date:	12th/13th August 2023	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Galbert	TBA	Fr Galbert
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Kim Crawford	Steve Bishop
First Reading:	Tanya Baldwin	Jim Gresser	Anne Edwards
Second Reading:	Felix Kobus	Loida Derbyshire	Domhnall MacCormac
Music:	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters

Morning Tea Roster - 6th August after 9:30am Mass: East Timor Support Group



This year, 2023, marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective" will be held on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST.

As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life. Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddtcreator>

Registration for the August Webinar

Young people's growing ecological sensitivity and generous spirit are driving admirable efforts to protect the environment, as will be seen in the gathering of over 500,000 young individuals at World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. How can young people bring leadership in the process of ecological conversion that translates into actions? How can our activities in the upcoming Season of Creation make sure to include young people from the start?

Join us on August 17 to hear from World Youth Day participants and other young people involved in impactful projects that put their faith into action through integral ecology.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_505w7bY1Qhmpy28IDMwD7g#/registration

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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Parish Email:	<i>email: springwood@parracatholic.org</i>
Parish Website:	www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page:	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Priest:	Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 Emergency ONLY: 0418 461 316
Parish Pastoral Council:	Suggestions to the Box at the Back of the Church
Parish Office Hours:	Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm
Weekend Masses:	Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am
Weekday Mass:	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am
Communion Service:	Monday, Friday, Saturday 9:30 am
Healing Mass:	1st Friday of the month, 9.30am
Rosary & Devotions:	Monday-Saturday, 9.00am
Children's Liturgy:	3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
Adoration, Rosary:	2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
Baptisms:	2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment
Reconciliation:	Please Contact the Parish Office
Weddings:	By appointment
Funerals:	Please Contact the Parish Office

We respect the Darug people and their elders both past and present, as the traditional custodians of this land on which we celebrate the Eucharist.

THE SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-19

You will do well to be attentive to it.

Listen!
We saw his majesty
and started talking about building tents!
God stopped us with:
"This is my Son, my beloved,
in whom I am well
pleased."
Lord,
make us pause our working
and
just
listen.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

O Christ,
give us a glimpse.
Let us find you shining like the sun,
like a sliver of the moon,
like a hummingbird,
or evening sky, or spider's web;
in labourers, coffee growers,
in crossing guards,
in unhoused people.
Let no part of your creation
be ever hidden from the glow of your
earthly, Godly presence.
Let us find
you in
all things.

Anne Osdieck

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

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.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96:1-2, 5-6, 9

R. 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!

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



Sick: Marama Watson, Faith Naughton-Green, Margaret Munro, Mary Whyte, Gwen Daly, Ray Lyons, Lally Sabater, Baby Leonardo Diaz, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Luca Hurley **and all Private Intentions.**

Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP STREET STALL: STA Ladies Fellowship would like to thank everyone who contributed goods, cakes and other items to last week's successful street stall. Funds raised will be donated to St Vincent de Paul local projects. Your support is greatly appreciated.

DADS AT THE SHRINE: Dads at the Shrine is a monthly hour of adoration held at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, next held **Wednesday 9 August**. The hour begins with a brief reflection before a time of silent prayer. Confessions are available. The evening finishes with a simple cup of tea. All dads are welcome. No RSVP is necessary. Any questions, contact Bernard, 0416 106 871.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: We will be having two Masses to celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 9.30am Mass and 7.00pm Mass, Tuesday 15th August. All welcome.

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE FOODBANK: During this unprecedented times, refugees and people seeking asylum in the community need your help more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated. Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. We are seeking donations of Basmati Rice, Cooking Oil, Long Life Milk, Tinned Tuna, Red Kidney Beans, Biscuits and Muesli Bars, Dry Chickpeas, Red and Green Lentils, Nappies, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shampoo & Conditioner, Sanitary products, Razors and Savors, Deodorant (male and female), Soap. We thank you for walking with us at this critical time. We will have boxes available for this foodbank collection at the back of the church with the actual drive being on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of September.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS: Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR. Sunday 20th August, 2023, 2pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys NSW. All welcome!

FaithLIFE - 3 NIGHT SHORT COURSE ON SYNODAL SPIRITUALITY Beginning 22 August: Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on synodal spirituality with Sr Patty Andrew, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesdays: 22 Aug + 29 Aug + 5 Sep. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. RSVP via <https://pffarra.org.au/faithlife/>

GIVING ENVELOPES: This is an important message for all parishioners who give generously via the Giving Envelopes. It is time to re-order and we will, as previously mentioned, be changing the envelope numbers for the new year starting in October. We have been busy cataloguing an entire year and if you haven't used an envelope in the last year you will NOT BE ISSUED with another set. If you have any queries, please see Debbie in the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting for the PPC will be held on Tuesday, 15th August. If you would like to include any items to the agenda, please place into an envelope and put into the PPC Box situated at the back of the church.

COUNTERS: If you would like to be part of our weekly contribution counters and are available during the week at 10.00am for one day a month, please send an email to the parish office at springwood@parracatholic.org

READERS: If you are interested in being a reader at any of our Masses please contact the Parish office via email or phone so we can place you on to our roster. Thank you.

HELP WANTED: EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY COMMUNION: We are looking for more volunteers to be part of our Eucharistic Ministry. If you would like to become an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion visiting the sick in their private homes and/or retirement aged care facilities, please contact Fr Paul Slyney or the Parish Office on 02 4754 1052.

MULCH: We were delivered a large pile of mulch some weeks ago and if there are any eager parishioners who would like to distribute it amongst our gardens, please feel free to do so. It would be sincerely appreciated.

FOLLOW OUR WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMAGE FROM HOME: 170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSE: The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

Spirituality of the Readings Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

The Giver

We have seen that Jesus received temptations, just like the rest of us, and we will see scripture work out what he did with them.

It was so human.

This week we see him transfigured into dazzling light. Not so human. More like a heavenly display.

Which is the real Jesus? There are two Ignatian insights that shed light on this question and on Sunday's readings.

First, sometimes in the spiritual life, the future gets displayed in the present. Example: some years ago your author was walking somewhat sadly along the streets of his neighbourhood, unable to sleep, but wishing that he could revive more significance in his belief in God. Suddenly without warning he found his insides coming out of him, so to speak, and he said out loud, Oh God, Oh Jesus, I love you. Who knows how long this experience lasted—maybe ten seconds or ten minutes—but suddenly it was over. He was back to his ordinary state, wishing he could know and love God better!

If you can envision that, you might see that he had experienced “a transfiguration.” His usual and in this case, dull, fearful approach to the Father and the Son was transformed, transfigured, showing what was really there, but which he was not at that point able to fully receive. We human beings have to wait and be stretched before we are ready to see God in a more personal way. But, lest we become discouraged and give up, God might render us a short vision of how things really are at their core. A transfiguration.

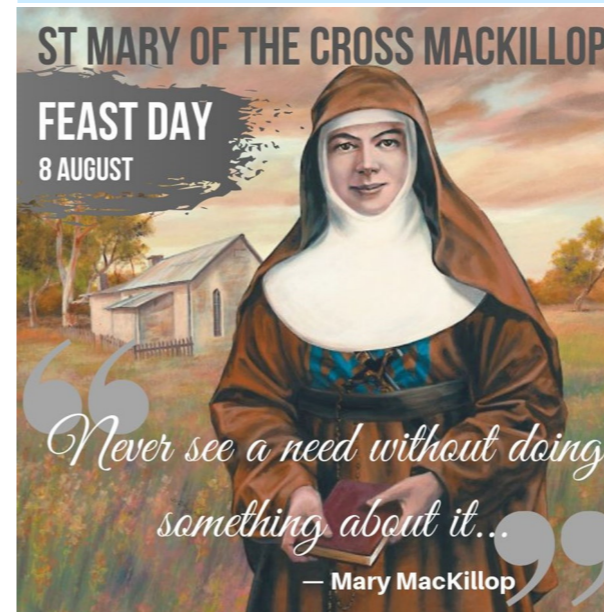
Second, when a graced view occurs, you and I want very much to hang on to the gift because it is so wonderful. We tend to forget about the giver, even though the giver is the main point. We become attached to the feel-good part. Maybe that is why Jesus says in today's reading, “do not tell this experience to anyone.” He does not want the transfiguration to be a carnival attraction (“hey, look how white his clothes are! Incredible!”). Theologians call it a “prefiguring” of the risen Jesus.

Our love relationship with Jesus/God is what counts, and particular feelings are supposed to be just symbols of it. “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Not “watch this and get a big kick out of it!”) We must look to whatever relationship grace has given us, and let everything else lead to and from it.

To summarise: sometimes God gives us glimpses of our relation with Jesus that are too much for us, but that can encourage us. The transfiguration may have been one of these for the two apostles. The purpose of their glimpse is to keep them (or us) involved in the relationship, to let us glimpse the real Jesus, rather than just to give them a thrill.

Conclusion: let us not give up. Let us follow Jesus along, step by step. The encouragement from this Sunday is great.

John Foley, SJ



Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne (Australia) in 1842. Died in Sydney on this day in 1909. Took the religious name Mary of the Cross. Responding to the isolation of colonial families, she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for their children. She and her sisters shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. Remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of calumny and for her abiding trust in God's providence. Australia's patron saint.