

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

17th February 2008

THEME: Matthew 17: 1-9

Today's Gospel is St Matthew's record of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up on the mountain where they behold Jesus changed, his face filled with light.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Friday 22nd February - The Chair of St Peter, apostle

TRANSFIGURATION

For Peter, James and John, the mystical experience of the transfigured Jesus included a wide range of emotions. Joyous wonder ("Lord, it is good for us to be here") mingled with awe-filled fear ("They fell prostrate and were very much afraid") yielded to silence as they cherished the experience within them ("Do not tell the vision to anyone"). We might imagine that the disciples were later able to tap into that experience in those moments when the Jesus they loved was transfigured by brutality and pain. Witnesses to his glory were also witnesses to Jesus' debasement - but the glory and his goodness would, in the end, prevail over sin and shame.

The voice from the cloud describes Jesus as one "with whom I am well pleased." There is no trace of sadism here, no divine pleasure attached to Jesus' death. Jesus is pleasing because of his obedience. For that reason, the disciples are instructed, "Listen to him" - obey the obedient one. Be transfigured like him through suffering, service and love.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Melda McDonald, Fr Wilf Plunkett, May Smith, Kristi Cassandra, Kathy Hendry, Cameron Thompson, Betty Hunter, Allannah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Joe Mullavey, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Sharon Witteveen, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Fr John Fitzwalter, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Patsy Hanley, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Brenden Aldridge, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook, Luke Westaway, Bishop Brennan, Lloyd Bell-Chambers and Len Egan.

Grant eternal life to:

Mollie Higgins, Pauline Blissett, Alma Whitehead, Steve Arnold, Marie Hanrahan, Toni Zajc, Cedric Billett, Sr Carmel Curtin, Faye Taylor, Paul Brown and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Arthur Scott, Eileen Ahern, Casimiro Vlacci and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Bert Scammell, Lucia Vlacci and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

COBEY STEVENS

FOR YOUR DIARY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday evening during Lent at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION

This week's story comes from Indigenous Australia where Caritas is helping to transform communities by providing basic skills training in filmmaking to renew relationships between indigenous youth and their elders through the sharing and recording of personal stories. Your donation to Project Compassion will support the ongoing development of these communities.

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes which are at the back of the church.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for Easter will commence next Saturday 23rd February at 12.00noon at St Patrick's Church. All welcome. Please contact John Harrold on 6021 4079.

'THE FAITH & WITNESS OF ST PAUL'

(We are called to be like him)

A day of scripture reflections with Bishop Joe will be held on Monday 25th February at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, 283 Beechworth Road, Wodonga from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please bring your bible and lunch to share. Tea and coffee provided. Enquiries: Brigita (02) 6059 2596 or Fran (02) 6059 5126.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

The St Patrick's Day Concert will be held on Saturday 1st March at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Hall. A plate for supper would be appreciated. The cost is \$8.00 per adult, children free. Proceeds to aid an African student to come to World Youth Day.

REGISTER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

The time to register for WYD is NOW!

Please pick up a '**Step by Step Guide to Registering**' or an '**Expression of Interest**' form from the back of the Church. Registrations with the Diocese close 31st March. Don't let your chance to be part of this great event pass you by.

JOURNEY OF THE CROSS & ICON (JCI)

The WYD Cross & Icon will be at St Patrick's on Thursday 6th March.

BILLETING FOR WYD DAYS IN THE DIOCESE

If you are able to provide accommodation for young people coming from Europe in July 2008 for the days in the diocese, please fill in a billeting form from the back of the church.

For more information on WYD, Registering, Journey of the Cross & Icon and Billeting, please see the WYD Notice Board at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email mizmim@gmail.com

ST PATRICK'S PRAYER GROUP

St Patrick's Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 8.00pm. For details contact Kath: 6021 3821 or Maree: 6021 4533. All welcome.

ST PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP

First Sunday of every month after 5.30pm Mass in St Patrick's Hall. For ages 12+. Dinner provided. For more information please see the poster at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email: mizmim@gmail.com

INVITATION

Since 1981, in a small village in the former Yugoslavia, the Mother of God has reportedly been appearing and giving messages to six people. Ivan Dragicevic, one of the six visionaries who reportedly has daily apparitions, is visiting Australia in 2008. Come and listen to the message that Ivan has for us on Wednesday 20th February 2008 at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wade Avenue, Leeton. Be touched by Mary's words of hope, love and peace for the world.

Itinerary for the evening:

5.00pm - Confession,	6.00pm - Rosary,
6.40pm - Apparition,	7.00pm - Holy Mass
8.00pm - Ivan's Talk.	

We are in the process of organising a bus to transport those interested to Leeton. Please let us know as soon as possible if you require transport.

SNIPPET

And in these strivings you showed a dignity open to the message of God's revealed wisdom to all men and women, which is the great truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

John Paul II, Alice Springs, 1986.