

## The Transfiguration of the Lord

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 6 August 2023

### Exploring The WORD "Rise, and do not be afraid."

The Transfiguration of the Lord can sound embarrassingly magical. Jesus goes up onto a mountain and his clothes become dazzlingly white. Prophets appear and talk to him. And then it is all over and Jesus tells his disciples to say nothing. We should hold on to the absurdity of the incident. There is simply no reason for all this to have happened. In particular, there is no reason to put it into a gospel – the evangelist makes no capital out of it, it is simply there.

And this is the strength of the Transfiguration as an historical incident. There is no reason for anyone to have invented it. It is not central to the Christian case. It is not used to win arguments. There is only one reason to put it into the Gospel, and that is because it happened. It is one of those cases of the evangelists writing things down without knowing why they were important, and their very puzzlement is what makes the story so convincing. Why, then, did it happen? Surely so that we could see and understand that Jesus is at once one of the prophets and the one that was prophesied by them; and that he is God, and lives for all eternity in a blaze of dazzling and unapproachable light. The true miracle of the Transfiguration is not the shining face or the white garments, but the fact that for the rest of the time Jesus hid his glory so well.

### Prayer This Week

At the Transfiguration, Father, You showed Jesus in glory, a glimpse of what His disciples would see in His risen life.

Bless us in our humanity,  
with an awareness of Your presence,  
leading us to share in Your divine life  
even in our daily struggle.

Help us to deepen  
our knowledge of the Law and the Prophets,  
channels of Your grace throughout history,  
and signposts for our journey.  
Amen.

### GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

#### Heavenly Vision; More Human World

While we were still without hope, God took us out of our emptiness and brought us into a new land, making with us a covenant of liberation. But we remain set upon the things of this world, burdened with the original darkness that shadows our vision. Today's liturgy is about restoring our sight so that we can see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. The disciples saw the bounty of the Lord on the mountaintop. They witnessed the dazzling glory of Jesus shining in the company of Moses and Elijah, the glory of the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Abraham had also stood in the presence of the Lord, and he had been overwhelmed by a terrifying darkness pierced by the bright light of a smoking brazier and a flaming torch. The road from Abraham's encounter with God to the disciples' encounter with God was a long one. The road from Abraham's encounter with God to the disciples' encounter with God was a long one. We are a people who eagerly await the coming of our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. We recognize that we have our citizenship in heaven, but in the meantime we exercise our citizenship on earth for the coming of the kingdom of God. We purge ourselves of our Self-Reliance, our thirst for power, and our preoccupation with self-interest, sacrificing and praying that God might deliver Israel from all her distress.

Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu

Friday 11 August  
7-9pm

**Junior Youth**  
Years 5-8

**Board games night**

Parish Hall  
St Thomas More

We are inviting kids from **YEARS 7 to 9** to join in our Junior Youth Group Event!

**BOARD GAMES NIGHT**  
Friday, 11 August,  
7 to 9pm  
in the Parish Hall

We encourage parents to join us as we create a place where our young people can meet to form connections, encounter and together grow in their faith.

**ALTAR SERVER FORMATION DAYS**  
**Preferably BOYS**  
who have completed the  
Sacrament of Christian Initiation.  
**All Sundays of August at 4pm in the  
Parish Church.**

**Rite of Christian Initiation  
for Adults**

**A Journey of Faith**  
*Are you or do you know anyone who is thinking about becoming Catholic? Or perhaps has missed receiving the Sacraments since their baptism?*

If so, invite them to join us on a remarkable journey of discovery, discernment and study about the Catholic faith and how to live it. The RCIA programme for adults and children starts soon. Invite them to an informal inquiry session **Sunday 30 July or 6 Aug or 13 Aug 3:30-4:30pm** in the parish hall to seek clarification, to know more about the programme or to enroll for it. Following on from that, formal weekly sessions will start during Sunday 10am Masses. For more information contact the parish office phone: 09 444 8624 or email: [office@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz) or **Ghassan Emmanuel** mobile: 021 23 44 339.

**Seniors Group Morning  
Get-together**

Our next gathering will be on the Feast of the Assumption: Tuesday August 15. We will meet in the Parish Hall as usual for morning tea and activities. We will have the options and costs for our outing now planned for Tuesday September 19.

**Fun for Seniors**

## Sacramental Preparation

### Sacramental Programme 2024

Registration for our 2024 Sacramental Programme is now open! Requirements: Baptized children 8 years old and upwards to receive their First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Registration closes on 31 December 2023. Enrolment Forms are available at the church foyer. Submit completed Form to the Parish Office. As your child grows closer to God in their preparation, it is hoped that in presenting your child and supporting them, your knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and your closeness to God will also grow. Our program seeks to assist you in the preparation of your child for the Sacraments. To enable both faith and understanding to grow, it is presumed that your child's knowledge of the sacraments will be built upon by further instruction and example at home and at school, and regular attendance at Mass. Your understanding of the Mass as central to the Catholic faith and therefore the Sacraments is important.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The TRANSFIGURATION

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

Peter 1:16-19

Matthew 17:1-9

#### Monday

Numbers 11:4-15, 10:28-11:35

Matthew 14:13-21 or 14:22-36

#### Tuesday

Colossians 3:12-17 or

Judith 8:11-17, 28-31

Matthew 6:25-34

*St Mary of the Cross*

#### Wednesday

Numbers 13:1-2,25-

14:1,26-29,34-35

Matthew 15:21-28

#### Thursday

2 Corinthians 9:6-10

John 12:24-26

*St Lawrence, D.M*

#### Friday

Deuteronomy 4:32-40

Matthew 16:24-28

*St Clare, V*

#### Saturday

Deuteronomy 6:4-13

Matthew 17:14-20

NZCatholic

update on product plans for this Friday's edition

Thoughts and prayers - what's new in the world

Go in haste to WYD

St Thomas More

St Thomas More

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Just \$4

All welcome to share in a cuppa after the

10am Mass hosted by the

**South African community**

## Baptism Preparation Courses

6 August  
10 September,  
1 October &  
5 November  
2023

To book, phone or email parish office.

Ph: 444 8624 or  
office@stthomasmore.org.nz

Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families

Simone Choromanski,

Mary Baker, Israel Nathan,

Lyn Cotter, Tamar

Mathews,

Mark Delaurier,

Mary Anne Clark

Contact the Parish office if you wish to add names

office@stthomasmore.org.nz

Holy Cross Seminary

www.holycross.org.nz



## Alpha for Couples via zoom

Are you a dating, engaged or a married couple and want to improve and deepen your communication with your partner/ spouse?

Marriage & Family Life are offering an opportunity to improve communication with each other and at the same time deepen our friendship with God. You don't have to be Catholic to attend. This **free course** is only available to couples. Registration open until **25 July**. To register or find out more, see this link: [https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha\\_couples/](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha_couples/).



## The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

National Patronal Feast for Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Tuesday, 15th August**  
**Mass Times:**  
**09.15am and 07.30pm**

Please donate non-perishable food items for the St Vincent de Paul basket in foyer e.g breakfast cereals, coffee, tea, pasta, rice, tin fruit/vegetables, tuna, spaghetti, soups, pasta sauces.

**Thank you for your generosity.**



## Role vacancy: Prison Chaplaincy Director

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference. Can you help us show the love of God inside the prison walls? Applications are invited for the position of Prison Chaplaincy Director for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC). The Prison Chaplaincy Director is a full-time national role, providing pastoral and professional leadership and support to the Catholic chaplains who provide chaplaincy services in New Zealand prisons. This is a critical role, leading an important national ministry of the Church. If you or someone you know has experience as a prison chaplain (or in other pastoral or chaplaincy roles) and team leadership experience combined with theology and pastoral qualifications, please visit [www.catholic.org.nz/news](http://www.catholic.org.nz/news) for more information. Role closes Monday 28 August.

## PROLIFE FACTS

Margaret Tighe, a 50-year stalwart of Right to Life Australia, has recently sent out an Action Alert entitled "Stop Australia's Abortion Holocaust". A pro-abortion group in the Labor Party known as "Emily's List" is expected to move at Labor's national conference in Brisbane (17-19th August) for nationwide free (taxpayer-funded) abortions up to birth. What is Emily's List? It's an acronym for "Early Money is Like Yeast (it makes the dough rise)". Started in the USA, it is designed to ensure that all "progressive" female politicians and candidates are financially supported and mentored, to get elected and promote abortion to the fullest extent possible. The List is a formidable network at both federal and state level in Australia. Unsurprisingly, most Labor women MPs are committed to promoting abortion as "reproductive health". Margaret Tighe and Right to Life Australia are facing an important battle. The stakes are high with approximately 80,000 Australian babies aborted each year. Right to Life Australia are calling for pro-lifers to write to their Labor MPs to advocate for life. Kiwis can help Australian pro-life advocates at this time with our prayer support. For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz)

## SAFE CHURCH ~ SAFE GUARDING

As Catholics we believe that every person is created in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, we continue to ensure that our parish is a place where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We foster an environment which is welcoming, and in which all our parish family feel safe. If you have any complaints or concerns, contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800-114-662.

## Women in the Bible

with Kieran Fenn fms

The Bible—a book written by, for and about men?

The women who feature in the Bible are significant. They cover the different challenges of women in a patriarchal society. In this series we will learn more about women who were determined and strong.

They put their trust in God and went far beyond the expected behaviour.

We will explore the lives of key women in the Bible who chose unconventional methods to bear important leaders: women in Genesis, Exodus, Joshua-Judges, Ruth, Esther and Judith.



Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794-1872)

Kieran Fenn fms is a Bible scholar and has spent more than 40 years in Adult Education, teaching Scripture in New Zealand and abroad.



**Women in the Bible** with Kieran Fenn fms  
Mondays, 07/14/21 Aug & 04/11/18 Sep 2023, 7-8.30pm (ZOOM)  
Fee: \$20/session or \$90/series incl. study material.  
For more information and registration: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

**The Women in the Bible** with Kieran Fenn fms. Mondays, 07/14/21 Aug and 04/11/18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$20/session or \$90/series (incl. study material).

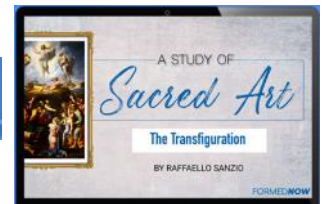
## Liturgical Spaces with Prof Thomas

O'Loughlin. 4-part series on our YouTube channel. Online. No fee. Part 1: *Do we gather as consumers or celebrants?*

For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)



FORMED  
FAITH AT HOME



## Young Adults Ball 26 August 7pm McHugh's of Cheltenham

The theme for this year is 'Starry Night'. Here's your chance to put on your best formal attire for an unforgettable evening. Get ready to dance the night away with our live band, The Velvet Tones. Cocktail style canapes will be served throughout the night and your favourite drinks will be available at the bar (with one free drink included in your ticket!). Tickets \$110 \*This is an 18+ event. Go to [facebook.com/AKCYM](https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM) for tickets.

TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

**Women in the Bible** with Kieran Fenn fms. Mondays, 07/14/21 Aug & 04/11/18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$20/session or \$90/series. All sessions are connect but also stand alone. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/10/women-in-the-bible/>

Liturgical Spaces with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin. Series on Muffin Talk radio programme freely available online at: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/17/liturgical-space-thomas-oloughlin/> For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

Please **DO NOT double park** in the main carpark and block access for drop-offs and emergency vehicles