

FOCUS

The Parish Magazine
of
St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Wembley
Summer 2022



The Transfiguration of Jesus

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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and Fr Tebin Francis CMI

Monday	Mass: 9.30am
Tuesday	Mass: 9.30am and 6.30pm
Wednesday	Mass: 9.30am
Thursday	Mass: 9.30am and 6.30pm
Friday	Mass: 12.00noon
Saturday	Mass: 9.30am 6.30pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday	Mass: 9.00am, 10.45am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm

All services are streamed live at the **Parish Website** and
on **ChurchServices.tv/wembley1**

Schools

ST JOSEPH'S INFANT SCHOOL, Waverley Avenue. Tel: 020 8903 6032

ST JOSEPH'S JUNIOR SCHOOL, Chatsworth Avenue. Tel: 020 8902 3438

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Mandy Whelan

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A Summer message



Once again, summer is here and we look forward to school and college recesses and holidays. However, as in the last 2 years, our activities continue to be restricted since the COVID virus remains an issue. Although our churches are now open and the congregation has returned in good numbers, we cannot be complacent and the wearing of masks remains an important safeguard for all of us and I would urge you all to continue with this precaution until we are advised otherwise.

Many of us may have planned something or have something in mind. But a big question that can haunt us due to the pandemic: "Where can we go?" "Can we go at all?" A similar question must have come to the minds of the Apostles, after the Bread of Life or Eucharistic discourse in John 6: "many of Jesus's disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, 'Do you wish to go away as well?' (vv 66-67) Simon Peter replied, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (v 68) Who could the disciples go to? Peter's question, "To whom shall we go?" was really a statement. Peter was not asking Jesus to name someone else for the disciples to follow. Peter was simply saying that there was no one else. Only Jesus. Nobody could replace Jesus as the disciples' Master.

Two thousand years have passed since Jesus, and there were many thousands of years before Him. In all that time, there was not a spiritual teacher, religion leader or philosopher with words as compelling as the words of the man from Nazareth, Jesus himself.

But to whom do we go when our soul is down? To whom do we go when guilt overwhelms us? To whom do we go when we are buried by burdens? Knowing well that the Bible has the right answers for all these questions it is to God, to Jesus that we go.

Fr Joseph



Many Catholic Christians do not necessarily recollect or ponder the miraculous event in Christ's earthly life known as the Transfiguration. Even with a liturgical celebration every Aug. 6, the day often slips by with limited attention; yet, it is an episode that proclaims Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah.

Properly called the feast of the *Transfiguration of the Lord*, the feast day originated in the fifth century Eastern Church and spread to the West five centuries later. The celebration was added to the universal Roman Church calendar in 1457 by Pope Calixtus III (r. 1455-58). It is a designated feast day, meaning that on the liturgical calendar, it is of lesser rank than a solemnity but above a memorial.

The term transfiguration comes from Latin meaning, "to change or transform." A transformation involving our Saviour takes place on a mountaintop — an event that glorifies the divine person of Jesus, one that is recorded in the three synoptic Gospels and by St. Peter in 2 Peter, 1:16-20.

Understanding the context

To fully comprehend the importance of this event, it is helpful to understand the context. The timeframe is in the summer of A.D. 29, probably in what we call August. Just a few months earlier at Capernaum, Jesus had described himself as the *bread of life* come down from heaven (cf. Jn 6:41). Further, he has said that those who eat his body and drink his blood will attain eternal life (cf. Jn 6:54).

A large number of those listening to him could not accept the idea that he came down from heaven; wasn't he "the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother?" (Jn 6:42). They failed to believe that it was necessary to eat his body and drink his blood to gain eternal salvation; upon hearing his words, many went away.

The apostles, however, stayed with him, and later at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks them: “Who do you say that I am?” The apostles had been living in his presence, following him, listening to his teachings, seeing his miracles, and Peter responds to the question saying that Jesus is “The Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Mt 16:16). Jesus acknowledges that Peter’s response could only be prompted by the Father and designates Peter as the leader of the Church. Next, he astounds those present saying he will soon go to Jerusalem where he will be killed and then rise on the third day. His followers couldn’t grasp that such events could possibly happen if he was truly the Messiah; in fact, Peter argues, “No such thing could ever happen to you.” Jesus offers a stern response: “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do” (Mt 16:22-23).

This is an amazing response — but, at the same time, Jesus recognizes the confusion among his followers. He is the bread of life, the Son of God; yet, he says he will be killed by the Jews and then rise. Anyone hearing these conversations would be confused, because we “are not thinking as God does.” But the tomb will not confine Jesus. He will be resurrected, ascend to the Father and be glorified.

A miracle

Some six days after the discussions at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus furnishes clarification of his words to three of the apostles during the miracle of the Transfiguration. A miracle that happens to Jesus, not to someone else.

Jesus along with Peter and the brothers, James and John, climb up a “high mountain.” The Scriptures do not name the mountain, but tradition has it as Mount Tabor. Here, he is transfigured, his divine nature revealed to the three apostles, “his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light” (Mt 17:2).

In the Gospel according to Mark “[Jesus] clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them” (v. 9:3). As Jesus appears in glory, so, too, does Moses and Elijah, seen by the apostles conferring with Jesus about what lay ahead for him in Jerusalem (cf. Lk 9:31). Moses represents the Old Testament laws and Elijah represents the prophecies — all manifested in Jesus.

The apostles are awestruck by this scene, and Peter wants to build three tents (tabernacles), one each for Jesus, Moses and Elijah (cf. Mt 17:4). Peter is ready to stay in this beautiful place, but he and the others must go back down the mountain. This is not unlike the soldier who goes on R&R from a combat zone. He enjoys, even relishes his time away from combat, but he has to go back. The victory still has to be won; sacrifices still have to be made.

Voice of the Father

As Peter is making his comments about the tents, suddenly a cloud appears. The cloud represents the Holy Spirit and God speaks from the cloud: “This is

my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Mt 17:5). God is acclaiming the divinity of Christ and also singling him out as unique from Moses and Elijah. In the words, “listen to him,” God acknowledges Jesus as his messenger — the one who carries the word of God.

The Trinity: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are here. Beholding this heavenly vision, the apostles fall to the ground in adoration and fear; when Jesus tells them to get up, no one is there except Jesus looking as always. As the four men go back down the mountain, Jesus commands them not to discuss with others what took place on the mountain until after his Resurrection.

St. Peter — Eyewitness to the Transfiguration



As commanded by the Lord, Peter and the others with him at the Transfiguration do not mention this event until after the Resurrection. St. Peter wrote some 30 or so years later: “We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, ‘This my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to

it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (2 Pt 1:16-19).

Removal of doubt

Likely, few would have believed anyway, but for Peter, James and John, the Transfiguration removed any doubt as to who Jesus is. Through this miracle, he showed that regardless of what would take place in his life, no matter that his countenance would be cruelly disfigured, that he would be crucified and buried — his divinity could never be altered. Yes, he will die but then rise again in glory.

In Sermon 51, *Pope St. Leo the Great* (r. 440-61) said: “And in this Transfiguration the foremost object was to remove the offense of the cross from the disciple’s heart, and to prevent their faith being disturbed by the humiliation of his voluntary passion by revealing to them the excellence of his hidden dignity.”

On a mountain, for a brief time, the splendour of Christ’s eternal divinity is revealed. The apostles witness how Jesus will appear in heaven and we too, as followers of Christ, will share in his glory. His passion was not the end, in the same manner, our suffering, our death is not the end.

Prayer for the
Feast of the Transfiguration
August 6th

~

O God, who on the holy
mount revealed to chosen
witnesses your well-beloved
Son, wonderfully transfigured,
in raiment white and
glistening: Mercifully grant
that we, being delivered from
the disquietude of this world,
may by faith behold the King
in his beauty; who with you,
O Father, and you, O Holy
Spirit, lives and reigns, one
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Bartholomew, Apostle



St. Bartholomew, a doctor in the Jewish law, was a dear friend of St. Philip the Apostle. Because Bartholomew was a man "in whom there was no guile," his mind was open to the truth. He went willingly with Philip to see Christ, and recognized the Saviour immediately as the Son of God. After having received the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost, Bartholomew evangelized Asia Minor, northwestern India, and Greater Armenia. In the latter country, while preaching to idolaters, he was arrested and condemned to death. His feast day is August 24.

St. Bartholomew

In St. John's Gospel, Bartholomew is known by the name Nathaniel (the liturgy does not always seem aware of this identity). He hailed from Cana in Galilee, was one of the first disciples called by the Lord. On that initial meeting Jesus uttered the glorious compliment: "Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile!" After the Resurrection he was favoured by becoming one of the few apostles who witnessed the appearance of the risen Saviour on the sea of Galilee (John 21:2). Following the Ascension he is said to have preached in Greater Armenia and to have been martyred there. While still alive, his skin was torn from his body. The Armenians honour him as the apostle of their nation. Concerning the fate of his relics, the *Martyrology* says: "His holy body was first taken to the island of Lipari (north of Sicily), then to Benevento, and finally to Rome on an island in the Tiber where it is honored by the faithful with pious devotion."

The Church of Armenia has a national tradition that St. Jude Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew visited the Armenians early in the first century and introduced Christianity among the worshippers of the god Ahura Mazda. The new faith spread throughout the land, and in 302 A.D., St. Gregory the

Illuminator baptized the king of Armenia, Dertad the Great, along with many of his followers. Since Dertad was probably the first ruler to embrace Christianity for his nation, the Armenians proudly claim they were the first Christian State.

Patron: bookbinders; butchers; cobblers; Florentine cheese merchants; Florentine salt merchants; leather workers; nervous diseases; neurological diseases; plasterers; shoemakers; tanners; trappers; twitching; whiteners; Gambatesa, Italy; Armenia.

Symbols: Flaying or tanner's knife and book; three vertical flaying or tanner's knives; human skin; human skin on a cross; devil under his feet; St. Matthew's Gospel; scimitar; cross;

Often Portrayed As: Elderly man holding a tanner's knife and a human skin; skinless man holding his own skin.



The Martyrdom of Saint Bartholomew (Jusepe de Ribera, 1634)

Sunday Event Day 26 June 2022

The event organised by the Justice and Peace group was in aid of parishioners who are experiencing financial difficulty due to the effects of the pandemic. Money raised was aimed at assisting our parish families needing help and in particular those with young children.



The mission of the Justice and Peace Group at St Joseph's, Wembley is to work within the local Catholic Church towards raising awareness of the principles of justice and peace within the community as central to the life of the Church, to bring the Good News of Christ's love, peace and justice to all

people, especially the poor, oppressed, isolated and marginalised with an emphasis on local issues but also in response to national and international crises, and to care for and respect the whole of God's creation.

More than 100 parishioners enjoyed delicious home prepared food in the Marian Centre including: a hot breakfast, varied lunches, hot dogs, idli/wadas, pau bhaji, meaty buns, and cakes all available for sale and all donated by generous parishioners. Activities included face painting, hand/face aromatherapy and a raffle. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended the event raising some £1000 for this most worthy cause.

Grateful thanks to all our generous parishioners, whether you attended in person or offered donations of cash or food, for supporting this event.

In parallel with the above event, Brent Health Educators arranged sessions in the Pastoral Centre relating to Diabetes Awareness in an effort to draw attention to this most debilitating illness particularly as one ages. Children from age groups 5 to 12 years were encouraged to draw pictures on the theme of Diabetes and their drawings offered excellent information and knowledge on this condition.

Anyone who feels inspired to volunteer for this great initiative, which is local to you and can commit their time is most welcome to join the Justice and Peace Group and receive more details.

Pauline Rebello

Senior's Meal

On Saturday 16th July 2022 St Joseph's Church hosted a Senior meal in appreciation for the many years of service to the church.



Father Joseph extended his gratitude to the Seniors by inviting them for a celebratory occasion in the church. The day began with a special mass of Anointment for over 50 people. Justice and Peace members welcomed the Seniors at the door of the

church and Pastoral Centre and escorted the ones that needed assistance to their seats in the church and to the venue. After the service all the seniors were invited to the Pastoral Centre for a special meal to continue the celebration as the Justice and Peace group had prepared a meal for them in a well decorated venue, appropriate for the event.



Later, there was a raffle for the seniors to participate in while enjoying their meal. Miraculous Medals (a devotional medal designed by St Catherine Laboure' following her apparitions of The Blessed Virgin in Paris in 1830) with a prayer attached were given to every senior as gift of appreciation. Most of the seniors participated in a dance shortly after alongside Father Tebin.

There were many positive comments from the Seniors during the Event as they felt very blessed to be a part of the celebration that made them feel special, sharing their stories from serving the church for many years.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this event, prompted by our Parish Priest and Sister and implemented by the Justice and Peace members, for all their time and effort that went into creating the event with such love and care to serve others.

Carmen Perez

Senior's Meal Celebration



Kids corner

Riddles

Q. How do we know the sea is friendly?

A. *Because it waves*

Q. What do Ghosts eat in summer?

A. *I scream*

Q. Where do sheep go on holiday?

A. *The Baaa-hamas*

Q. Where do sharks go on holiday?

A. *Finland*

Q. What did the beach say to the tide when it finally came in?

A. *Long time, no sea.*

Q. Why do bananas use sunscreen?

A. *Because they peel!*

Bible Word Search: The Resurrection

Abi
Athaliah
Esther
Hagar
Jerusha
Jochebed



Keturah
Maachah
Mary
Naamah
Naomi
Ruth
Sarah



God chose Mary to be the mother of his son, Jesus. Mary was always ready and willing to do whatever God wanted. Because she was so special she was taken up body and soul to be with Jesus in heaven – this is what ‘Assumption’ means. What qualities of Mary would we like to grow in our lives?

Gospel Reading : Luke 1.39-56

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a

loud cry, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants for ever.” And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.



St Joseph's Family Day 2022

5.00PM TO 9.00PM

ON SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 2022

AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Fun
Activities



Family Poster
Contest

Games

Fancy
Dress

Talent
Show

Music

International
Cuisine

Prizes

Traditional
Costumes

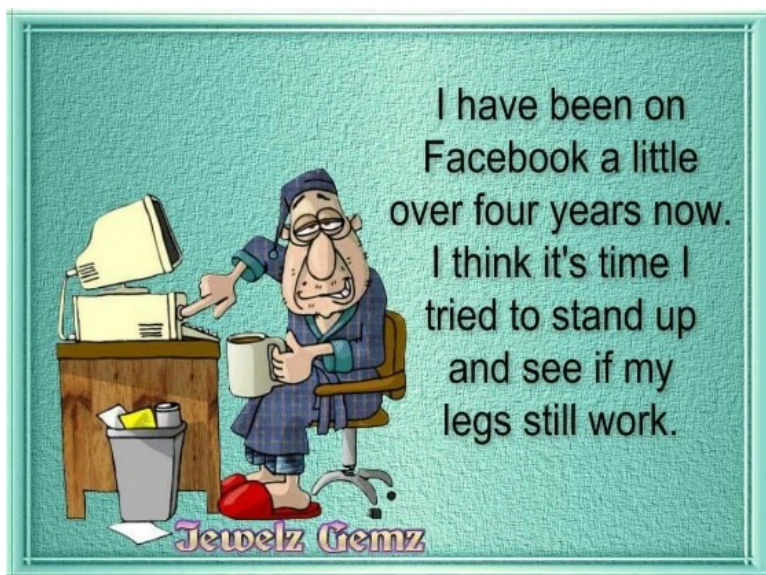


Contact the Parish Ushers for more information.

A fun-filled evening for the entire family...

Full activity details are available on the Church noticeboards.

Laughter - the best medicine



"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - *Mark Twain*

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork" – *Mae West*

"Some cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go"– *Oscar Wilde*

In an ad by a Hong Kong dentist:

"Teeth extracted by the latest methodists"

At the office of a Rome doctor:

"Specialist in women and other diseases"

In a Copenhagen ticket office:

"We take your luggage and send it in all directions"

On the door of a Moscow hotel room:

"If this is your first visit to Russia, you are welcome to it"

What do you get if you rearrange the letters of mother-in-law?
Woman Hitler!

Windowsill Vegetable Gardening *grown from seed*

Green Onions



Fresh green (spring) onions can be a wonderful and delicious addition to your salad bowls and sandwiches. In a small space like a windowsill, you can get enough harvest. You can even grow them in water.

Tomatoes



Growing tomatoes on a windowsill is easy if you have a sunny spot—a great way to grow and enjoy fresh, organic, juicy tomatoes indoors. For best results, choose dwarf varieties (cherry tomatoes are perfect). Also, some varieties that grow well on windowsill include Early Salad, Red Cushion, Pretty Patio, and Tiny Tim.

Chillies



Exotic, hot, spicy, and colourful— You can grow chillies on your kitchen windowsill. But only if it is sunny and warm. Also, the pot you use should be at least 8-10 inches deep.

It's fun, and you'll love your plants once they start to flower and fruit. You can make your curry recipes spicier this way.

Herbs



Snipping off fresh herbs every morning before heading on to the kitchen gives an unmatched delight. All you need is a rich, well-draining potting mix at a bright south-facing windowsill.

Basil, oregano, rosemary are some of the varieties that not only add a lip-smacking flavour to your food.

Fun with numbers

$$111111111 \times 111111111 = 12345678987654321$$

$$12 + 3 - 4 + 5 + 67 + 8 + 9 = 100$$

$$1 \times 8 + 1 = 9$$

$$12 \times 8 + 2 = 98$$

$$123 \times 8 + 3 = 987$$

$$1234 \times 8 + 4 = 9876$$

$$12345 \times 8 + 5 = 98765$$

$$123456 \times 8 + 6 = 987654$$

$$1234567 \times 8 + 7 = 9876543$$

$$12345678 \times 8 + 8 = 98765432$$

$$123456789 \times 8 + 9 = 987654321$$

The number 142857 is rather special. When you multiply it the digits found in the answer stay the same, just in a different order. Check it out:

$$1 \times 142857 = 142857$$

$$2 \times 142857 = 285714$$

$$3 \times 142857 = 428571$$

$$4 \times 142857 = 571428$$

$$5 \times 142857 = 714285$$

$$6 \times 142857 = 857142$$

What happens when you multiply it by 7? You get another rather special number:

$$7 \times 142857 = 999999$$

And it doesn't stop there:

$$142 + 857 = 999$$

$$14 + 28 + 57 = 99$$

$$142857 \times 142857 = 20408122449$$

$$20408 + 122449 = 142857$$

That's one amazing number!



CULINARY QUARTER



CHICKEN JALFRAZIE

Serves 6

Time 1 hour

Ingredients

1 kg Boneless Chicken cut into cubes
1 teaspoon cumin seeds
3 dry red chillies broken into bits
1 teaspoon garlic paste
1 teaspoon ginger paste
3 tomatoes chopped
2 onions sliced finely
1 teaspoon spice powder or garam masala powder
1 teaspoon peppercorns
3 tablespoons oil
Salt to taste



Method:

Heat oil in a suitable pan and add the cumin seeds. When they begin to splutter add the dry red chillies, onions and pepper corns and fry till golden brown. Add the chicken and sauté for a few minutes till it changes colour. Now add all the other ingredients and stir well. Simmer on low heat till the chicken is tender and the gravy is quite thick. Serve with rice, chapattis or bread.

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*“Everything good, everything magical
happens between
the months of June and August.”
– Jenny Han*



Summer farm scene