



Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 6—12 August 2023

SUNDAY 6 AUGUST	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Matthew 17: 1—9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy• 5.30pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
2023 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES - 2023 (A free voluntary program organised by the Church) Lessons take place in the building behind the church and begin at 10.30am until Church dismissal. We have classes for ages ranging from 5yrs to teenage years. Lessons are taught in a relaxed, friendly environment. Please bring your children along to learn of their rich Orthodox faith and come close to God and His Love.	
MONDAY 7 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall• 5.30pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
TUESDAY 8 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.30pm PARAKLESIS TO THE THEOTOKOS - presided by his Eminence Archbishop of Australia, Makarios
WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.30pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
THURSDAY 10 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.30pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
FRIDAY 11 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.30pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
SUNDAY 13 AUGUST	GOSPEL READING: Matthew 17: 14-23 EPISTLE READING: 1Corinthians 4: 9-16

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Fr Athanasios and Fr Ephraim are available at the Church every Monday to Friday between 4.00 and 6.00pm for Holy Confession and any spiritual need.

The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind.

How many churches there are in the world that are dedicated to the Most Holy Mother of God! How many healing springs where people are cured of their ailments have sprung up in places where the Most Holy Theotokos appeared and blessed those springs to heal both the sick and the healthy!

She is constantly, by our side, and all too often we forget her."

+Elder Thaddeus, *Homily on the Dormition of the Theotokos*

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 17: 1—9

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

Today, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we commemorate the event when our Lord's human nature was transfigured by the Holy Spirit, proceeding from Our Heavenly Father, Whose voice witnessed to His Son's divine nature. This Feast shows us firstly that the human and the divine natures of Our Lord Jesus Christ are united in One Person, secondly that, therefore, there is no unity without the Holy Spirit, and thirdly that our Saviour and Lord, dominates over Life and Death, for prophet Moses, who died, and prophet Elijah, who did not die, both came to worship Him on the Mount Tabor...

Every minute detail of this Evangelical event is, indeed, full of a profound significance but today I would like to point out an aspect of this Feast which is often overlooked: the symbolical meaning of Mount Tabor, the 'mountain' where the Transfiguration occurred. This Mount Tabor is for us a figure of repentance. We note that, like for the disciples, in order for us to see the transfiguration or to hope to be transfigured ourselves, we will first have to climb up, to mount, from our present condition. Otherwise any transfiguration or change for the better in our lives is impossible...

Our transfiguration or salvation is like Mount Tabor: however hard we try, we will not be guaranteed salvation through a swift, if arduous, climb today. Salvation takes a lifetime, it is a long climb up a long slope, which is why the Lord gives most of us so long to live... Salvation is a long struggle which requires determination and perseverance, patient longuffering...

Our spiritual progress is then not sudden and dramatic. And there are many obstacles through our path in our daily life: to pick up our prayer books in the morning and again in the evening is a struggle, and there are always hindrances along our path to even this: meals to prepare, trains to catch, phones to answer Church life is indeed made up of little sacrifices, obstacles to overcome: there are prayers to be said, fasts to be kept, a donation to be made, the washing-up to be done, flowers to be bought, the church to be cleaned, a choir rehearsal to go to, a vigil service to be attended, a confession to be prepared for...

We may well ask ourselves what are those little sacrifices that we have made since the Feast of Transfiguration a year ago? How far have we ascended up our own Mount Tabor? How have we changed over this time? What have we done to lead a better life since then? How have we improved? What have we given to God that we had not given Him before? It is this that we call progress: in what way am I a better Orthodox Christian than a year ago?

In our faith we are called to struggle daily, whatever the rocks or boulders in our way: whether they are pride or selfishness, lust or discouragement, envy or judging of others, – we have to struggle to ascend our personal Mount Tabor, we have to fight for our personal transfiguration. That is why it is so important to come to confession and communion!

If we do not do this, then the Church will move away from us. For we can both go up and down a slope. We can spiritually progress, but we can also spiritually regress. We can be transfigured by the love of God or we can be disfigured by the love of sin. And like progress, regress is not sudden and dramatic, regress, too, is a slope, as we say, a slippery slope.

Let us, therefore, take heed and give God what He really wants from us – our hearts and minds spiritually progressing. Amen.

<http://www.orthodoxengland.org.uk/sermtran.htm>



*"You were transfigured on Mt. Tabor showing the exchange mortal humans will make with your glory
at your second and fearful coming O Saviour!
(Matins)*