





## Parish Information Bulletin

### Program for 3—9 August 2025

<b>SUNDAY 3 AUGUST</b>	<b>8TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, Matthew 14: 14-22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>7.30am</b> Orthros and Divine Liturgy</li><li>• <b>6.00pm</b> <u>Paraklesis to the Theotokos in English</u></li></ul>
<b>2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES</b> (A free voluntary program organised by the Church) <b>Lessons take place in the building behind the church and begin at 10.30am until Church dismissal.</b> 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.	
<b>MONDAY 4 AUGUST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>9.00am</b> Service of Holy Unction</li><li>• <b>10.00am</b> Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall</li><li>• <b>5.30pm</b> Paraklesis to the Theotokos</li></ul>
<b>WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST</b> <i>Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>7.30am</b> Orthros and Divine Liturgy</li><li>• <b>5.30pm</b> Paraklesis to the Theotokos</li></ul>
<b>THURSDAY 7 AUGUST</b> <i>St Nikanor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>7.30am</b> Orthros and Divine Liturgy</li><li>• <b>5.30pm</b> Paraklesis to the Theotokos</li><li>• <b>8.00—9.00pm</b>  <b>TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>ALL TEENAGERS WELCOME</b> Join the group and learn about your faith, make friends, enjoy refreshments, in a friendly, relaxing environment. * Downstairs in the building behind the Church   <b>Find St Vasilios Greek Orthodox Parish Brunswick on Facebook and Instagram</b> <b>@stvasiliosgreekorthodoxchurch</b></li></ul>
<b>FRIIDAY 8 AUGUST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>5.30pm</b> Paraklesis to the Theotokos</li></ul>
<b>SUNDAY 10 AUGUST</b>	<b>GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14: 22-34</b> <b>EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 3: 9-17</b>

### Telephone Contact Numbers

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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.

With many temptations surrounding me,  
Searching for salvation,  
I have hastened unto you;  
O Mother of the Word,  
and ever-Virgin,  
From all distresses and dangers deliver me.  
Most Holy Theotokos save us.

~ From the Paraklesis to the Theotokos

### The Transfiguration of our Lord Matthew 17:1-9

And after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, brought them up on a high mountain by themselves, and was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased, Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. And Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

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*"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)*



### **One of twelve Great Feasts, like Theophany, the Transfiguration is a revelation of the Holy Trinity.**

It was only a small ray of Christ's divine Glory that the apostles saw on Mt. Tabor, yet human language could not do justice to it .

*"..His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light." St. Matthew 17: 2*

*"His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them." St. Mark 9: 3*

*"As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening." St. Luke 9:29*

What stood out, made an impression on them all, as particularly beautiful, was His face and garments. The face that soon after (40 days later) would be splattered with blood flowing from a crown of thorns, and robes that would be turned into a robe of scorn, to be cast lots for by soldiers.

Our Lord took three disciples with Him to Mt. Tabor. Peter had strong faith. John was called the beloved disciple of the Lord (he was also present during His sufferings). James became the first Bishop in Jerusalem and dealt much with the Hebrews.

Our Lord revealed only as much glory as was humanly bearable by the three disciples.

Instances of God's reflected glory:

Moses on Mt. Sinai

*"..But He said , 'You cannot see My face : for no man shall see Me and live.'"* (Ex.33: 20)

*"Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai .... that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him." Ex 34:29-35*

St. Stephen

*"And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit , gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God...."* Acts 6:15

God is light. The radiance of His face and clothing during the Transfiguration demonstrate that Jesus is God. The radiance of the Lord Jesus Christ on the mountain was His very own - this glory had always been there. It was now simply shining through.

The Lord showed us that He is the Light of the World, not only with the words He spoke but through His very being. For this brief moment Jesus removed the veil of His humanity to permit His disciples to see a small part of His Glory and foreshadowed His future glory. The disciples felt they were at the door of heaven and wanted to stay there - felt awe, fear, joy.

The Transfiguration assures the disciples that the Messiah, who is to suffer, is also the Lord of Glory. Only His Resurrection is a greater sign of His divinity than His Transfiguration.

Moses (1400BC) represents the Law and all those who have died.

Elijah (1,000BC) represents the Prophets and, since he did not experience death, all those who are alive in Christ. Their presence shows that the law and the Prophets, the living and the dead, all bear witness to Jesus as the Messiah - the fulfillment of the Old Testament (OT).

**The Transfiguration shows mankind that in Christ is the completion of OT, Law and Prophets.** It also manifests the communion of Saints - both men are immediately recognizable, and talk with the Lord and God - **death is not the end.**

The Father speaks from Heaven testifying to the Divine Sonship of Christ, and the Spirit is also present in the form of dazzling light, surrounding Christ's Person and over-shadowing the whole mountain.

True God of True God - His glory and power (to be with dead prophets Moses and Elijah).

The Cloud symbolises the presence of God - which passed over and around them.

*'Hear Him'* - These words heard by the Apostles should also be heard deep within our heart.

So many voices around us seek our attention but God clearly tells us ONE is the voice to listen to - His Son's Jesus Christ. Our whole purpose in life is to direct our 'hearing' to our Lord Jesus - to listen to his voice and obey His commands.

***"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it entered the heart of man, what things God has prepared for those who love Him."***

All who are true followers of Jesus will be transfigured and will share in His glory, as did Moses and Elijah. Our Lord's Transfiguration is the most evident expression of our hope for glorification in God's eternal Kingdom. For eternity, we shall be like Jesus as He appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration.

*'We shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.'* 1 John 3:2

*'The glory which Thou has given me I have given them'* John 17:22

*'Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with me where I am that they may behold my glory.'* John 17:24