



### The Transfiguration

On Thursday next week (6<sup>th</sup> August), we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. The Gospel describes how Jesus and His closest disciples go up a mountain, where in their presence, He is transfigured – the disciples behold His glory, they hear the voice of the Father and alongside Jesus they see Moses and Elijah, two of the holiest figures of the Old Testament. It is so wonderful that Peter wants to build 3 tents there on the mountain, so that they can prolong the moment and keep it alive. However, in the end the miracle comes to an end, and Jesus and the disciples must descend the mountain and return to their work and ministry.

For us, our churches are places of ‘Transfiguration’ – places where we go to behold the glory of God, to hear His voice and to join the company of the saints, who are gathered there to worship the Lord along with us. As with the disciples, these moments give us strength and inspiration to carry out our daily work and duties.

Now that we can go to Mass again, we can all share in the same joy the disciples knew, when they drew near to the Lord on the mountain. And like St Peter, we can say: ‘Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here’.

### Returning to Mass

A reminder that we now have Mass every day at Holy Ghost: **9.30 Monday – Friday, 10.00 Saturday and four Sunday Masses – 5.30 Saturday (vigil Mass), 9.30, 11.30 and 6.00.**

So far, the return to public Mass has gone very smoothly. A big thank you to our teams of stewards, who have made all this possible.

A few points for those attending Mass –

- Please sanitise your hands on entering the church, and maintain social distancing. The benches to be used are clearly marked. We ask you to leave your name and contact number

for 'track and trace' purposes – please write these on a piece of paper before you come to church, and leave them in the basket provided in the church porch.

- At present, there is no collection (as we are not allowed to pass around bags). There is a basket for you to leave a donation by the door as you leave. Wherever possible, we ask you to give your offering by standing order or via JustGiving (see the homepage of our website). Church finances have, of course, been affected by the pandemic, so we do appreciate your generosity.
- At Holy Communion, please follow the guidance of the stewards. Remember to come up one bench at a time, and in single file. Those in the centre aisles should come up first, and those at the sides (St Joseph's Aisle and the Lady Chapel) need to wait until those in the centre have all received. Before he begins to give Communion, the priest says once, to all, 'The Body of Christ', and all respond together 'Amen'. Holy Communion is then given in silence, and on the hand. If you are wearing a face covering, please ensure you remove this before coming up for Communion (and replace it afterwards).
- We have an organist and cantor for the 11.30 Mass – however, congregational singing is not allowed at present. Please enjoy the music but – for the time being – don't join in!

We know that many of you are away at present – we hope you enjoy your holidays and look forward to seeing you on your return. A warm welcome awaits you back at Holy Ghost!

Every blessing,

Fr. Richard