



Riverstown Parish Newsletter

**The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, Year A
Aug 05 / Aug 06, 2023**

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**This is my Son;
the Beloved; He
enjoys My favour.
Listen to Him.**

Matthew 17: 5

LISTEN TO HIM

*(Scripture lessons summarized -The Transfiguration of the Lord: Daniel
7: 9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1: 16-19, Matthew 17: 1-9)*

The common theme of today's readings is the metamorphosis or transformation of Christ by the empowering of God the Father Who sent His Son as our Savior and Redeemer. Today's Gospel, describing Christ's Transfiguration, challenges us to revitalize our Faith as true disciples of Christ, just as the passages from Daniel and 2 Peter were written to strengthen the Faith of their audiences in times of persecution.

The first reading, taken from the Book of Daniel, spreads out before us Daniel's vision of God's glorious Heavenly Court of Judgment. The Transfiguration is a prefiguring of Christ's glorification by God the Father in the Court of Heaven after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. In the second reading, St. Peter argues, in his Second Letter to the Church, that the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (at which the voice of God the Father was heard by the three apostles, verses 16-18), and the testimony of the Old Testament prophets (in the Messianic prophecies), are the guarantee of the doctrine of Christ's Second Coming. In the Transfiguration account in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus' Transfiguration was to allow Jesus to consult His Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for His Son's suffering, death and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make His chosen disciples aware of Jesus' Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened in their time of trial. On the mountain, Jesus is identified by the Heavenly Voice as the Son of God. Thus, the Transfiguration narrative is a Christophany, that is, a manifestation or revelation of Who Jesus really *IS*. Describing Jesus' Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting Faith in Him.

Life messages:

1) The changing of bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus by transubstantiation in the Holy Mass, is the source of our strength. Just as the Transfiguration of Jesus strengthened the Apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against our own temptations and our chief source for the renewal of our lives. In addition, communion with Jesus in prayer and especially in the Eucharist should be a source of daily transformation of both our minds and hearts, enabling us to love and serve Jesus in every one of our brothers and sisters with whom we come in contact each day. 2) Each Sacrament that we receive transforms us. Baptism, for example, transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of Heaven. Confirmation makes us the temples of the Holy Spirit. By approaching the Sacrament of Reconciliation when we recognize, repenting, that we have sinned, God brings us back to the path of holiness. By receiving in Faith, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are spiritually, and sometimes physically, healed, and our sins are forgiven. 3) The Transfiguration offers us a message of hope and encouragement. In moments of doubt, pain and suffering, disappointment and despair, we need mountain-top experiences that we may reach out to God and listen to His consoling words: *"This is my beloved son / daughter in whom I am well pleased."*

ROSARY SERVICE IN SOOEY CHURCH

Special Rosary Service held every Thursday at 2.30 pm in Sooeey Church. Most welcome to attend the same. Those who cannot make it to the Church may join us on www.massonline.ie

CEMETERY MASS IN TAUNAGH

The Annual Mass for all the deceased who are laid to rest in Taunagh Cemetery will take place at 7 pm on Wednesday, 16th August. Let us honour and connect with all those who have gone before us.

May they rest in God's eternal peace.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine takes place on Sunday 20th August with Anointing of the Sick at 2.30 pm and Mass at 3.00 pm in the Basilica.

Mass Schedule - Riverstown Parish

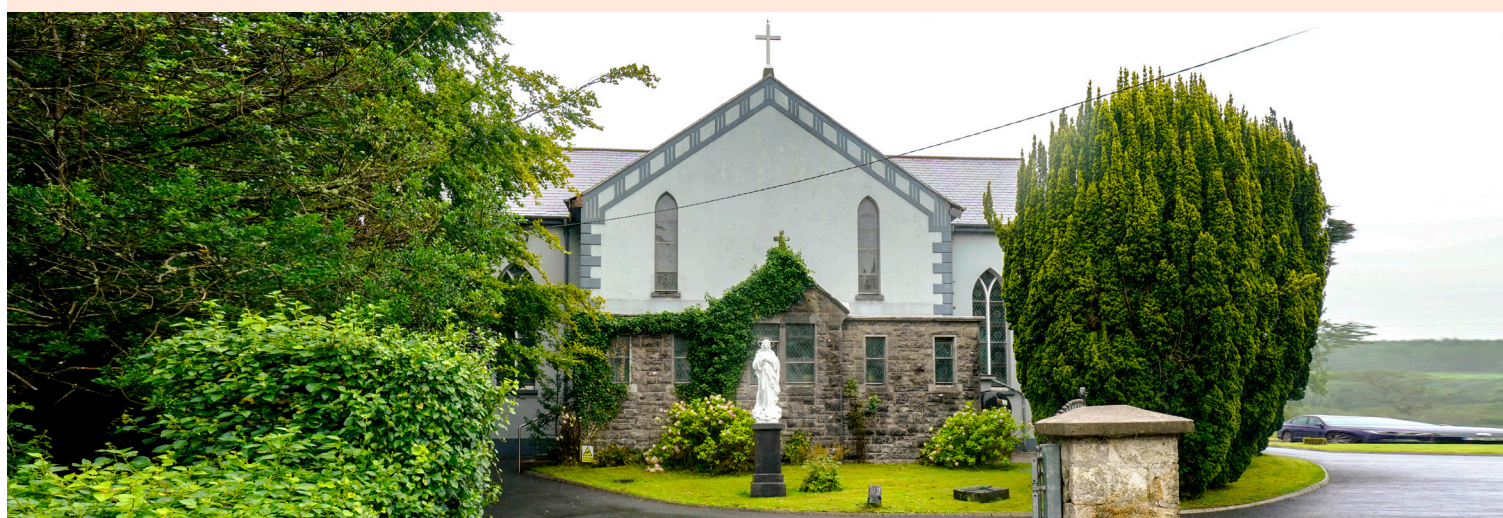
Transfiguration of the Lord - Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A – 2023

DAY / DATE	CHURCH	TIME	INTENTION
Sat Aug 05 Vigil Mass The Transfiguration of the Lord	Riverstown	08.00 pm	Michael Murphy
Sun Aug 06 The Transfiguration of the Lord	Sooeey	11.00 am	Michael O' Rourke, and the deceased members of the O' Rourke and Feeney families Pat Foley and the deceased members of the Foley family Joe Mc Keon and the deceased members of the Mc Keon and Conlon families
	Riverstown	12.30 pm	James Morrison Festival Mass -Deceased members of the James Morrison family and the deceased members of the Riverstown branch of Comhaltas
Tue Aug 08 Saint Dominic, priest	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Wed Aug 09 Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr	Sooeey	10.30 am	
Thu Aug 10	There is no Public Celebration of Mass in our Parish today		
Fri Aug 11 Saint Clare, Virgin	Sooeey	01.00 pm	Wedding Mass
Sat Aug 12 Vigil Mass Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	08.00 pm	Joe and Bridie Feeney and the deceased members of the Feeney and Madden families Pat Mc Donagh and the deceased members of the Mc Donagh and Mc Manus families
Sun Aug 13 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sooeey	11.00 am	

NOVENA FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is celebrated every year on August 15th. This feast commemorates the death of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Assumption, body and soul, into Heaven. It is the most important Marian feast, and it is also a Holy Day of Obligation.

Our Church here in Sooeey, as we know, is consecrated to Our Blessed Mother, Assumed into heaven. And this year, we will be having a special Novena beginning on Monday, 7th August in preparation for this great feast. I encourage all our parishioners to attend this 9-day Novena, place ourselves under our Blessed Mother's protection, seek her intercession, and ask her Motherly blessing.



NOVENA PRAYER

Eternal Father, You graciously looked upon the humility of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and made her to be the Mother of the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant, we beseech You that we who honour her Assumption into the Kingdom of Heaven, may by her Motherly intercession also come to share in the inheritance of those whom You have redeemed by the precious Blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most holy Immaculate Virgin, to you who are the Mother of my Lord, the Queen of the world, the advocate, the hope, and the refuge of sinners, I render you my most humble homage. And I thank you for all the graces you have conferred on me until now. I love you, O most amiable Lady; and for the love which I bear you, I promise to serve you always, and to do all in my power to make others love you. Dearest Mother, bring before the throne of your beloved Son the prayers and intentions I ask during this novena:

(Here we mention our intentions / petitions / requests silently...)

Our Mother, Assumed into Heaven and Queen of the Universe, obtain for us what we ask for, if it be for the glory of God and the good of our souls. **Amen.**

(Please Note: If you are unable to join us in the Church for the Novena, you may pray it at home during your family prayer, or join us on www.massonline.ie)

NOVENA SCHEDULE

Monday, August 7th (Sooeey Church)

7:00 pm Benediction with Rosary and Novena Prayers

Tuesday, August 8th (Sooeey Church)

7:00 pm Benediction with Rosary and Novena Prayers

Wednesday, August 9th (Sooeey Church)

7:00 pm Benediction with Rosary and Novena Prayers

Thursday, August 10th (Sooeey Church)

7:00 pm Benediction with Rosary and Novena Prayers

Friday, August 11th (Sooeey Church)

7:00 pm Benediction with Rosary and Novena Prayers

Saturday, August 12th (Riverstown Church)

8.00 pm Vigil Mass with Novena Prayers

Sunday, August 13th (Sooeey Church)

11.00 am Sunday Mass in Sooeey Church with Novena Prayers

Monday, August 14th (Sooeey Church)

8:00 pm Mass with Novena Prayers

Tuesday, August 15th (Sooeey Church)

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother

8.00 pm Feast Day Mass with Novena Prayers

followed by an outdoor Candle Light Rosary Service at the Grotto of our Blessed Mother (weather permitting)

NOTES FOR NEWSLETTER

All submissions for inclusion in the Newsletter to be submitted by 12 midday on Thursday

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God bless you all!
Fr. Yashin