In his pastoral letter and homily on the Feast of the Transfiguration in 1978, Oscar Romero emphasized that the essence of the church’s mission is to mediate the transformation of God’s people. Against the horizon of salvation history, the present historical moment of Salvadoran history appears to be a dark night, but the church serves as “the light of God, the light taken from the illuminated face of Christ in order to illuminate the lives of humans, the life of peoples, the complications and problems that humans create in their history; the Church feels the obligation to speak, to illuminate like a lamp in the night, to illuminate the darkness.”

Romero’s contemplative dwelling on the face of Christ recalls a longstanding practice associated with iconography of the Transfiguration in the Christian East. In Maximus the Confessor’s reflection on the Transfiguration, for example, Andrew Louth finds “a model of theology as meditative, focused (in this case) on the image, or icon, of the Transfigured Christ.” While maintaining continuity with traditional iconic regard of the transfigured Jesus, Romero’s theology of transfiguration pressed toward active fruits of contemplation, reflected in his sustained emphasis on the inextricable link between Tabor and Calvary. In his Transfiguration homilies, Romero consistently invites the ecclesial community to train its collective mind’s eye and heart’s desire on the transfigured Jesus, but he also urges it to extend its contemplative gaze from the eschatological horizon of the Transfiguration to the gritty suffering of daily life. Tabor, he preached, is and must be followed by Calvary. Only through defence of human rights and respect for the dignity of god’s people “will it be possible to give to this country the true face of beauty that it deserves, that it received from Christ, with its most beautiful name, the country of the Divine Saviour.” The church in El Salvador, sanctified by grace through the liturgical asceticism of faithful perseverance amid persecution, could begin to embody a corresponding transformation in society as well.

Extract from ‘Romero’s Theology of Transfiguration’, Margaret Ziel, *Theological Studies*, March 2011
Entrance Antiphon

My heart has prompted me to seek your face; I seek it, Lord; do not hide from me.

Entrance Song

No 458 (Gather) Blest Be The Lord

Opening Prayer

Let us pray (in this season of Lent for the gift of integrity), Father of light, in you is found no shadow of change but only the fullness of life and limitless truth. Open our hearts to the voice of your Word and free us from the original darkness that shadows our vision. Restore our sight that we may look upon your Son who calls us to repentance and a change of heart, for he lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Response 8:30am

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Response 6:00pm & 10:30pm

Psalm 32 (Gather) Let Your Mercy Be On Us

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Brothers and sisters: Join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation 8:30am

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Acclamation/Response

Glory and Praise to You, O Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel

Matthew 17: 1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves, and he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzlingly white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from a cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Offertory Hymn

No 213 (Gather) Hosea

Communion Antiphon
This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him

Communion Reflection

No 303 (Gather) Grant To Us, O Lord, A Heart Renewed

We leave in silence.

Let Us Pray For:

Recently Deceased

Sr. Marney Kennedy RSCJ, Fapepe Topui (Mary’s sister-in-law), Peter McFadyen, Agnes Alexander, Mary Gobbo (friend of Sr Pauline), Karl Rosenkrantz (in Ireland), Fr John Wakeling, Heinz Colby, Michael Hughes, Merle O’Loughlin, Emily Bezzina, Holly O’Malley, Marlene Norst, John Begley SJ,

Barbara Rich, Con Enright, Peter Hatsatouris, Joyce McCann, Jean Reardon

Anniversaries

Michael Brogan, Elizabeth O’Neill, Lloyd Draheim, Peter Gehring, Pamela and Patrick O’Shaughnessy, Bob Fear, Muriel Hardwick

Recently ill

Caroline Martin (friend of Jeanette Higgins) Lisa Dowling, Michael Barratt, Ian Gordon, Arthur Rolfe, Jean McCabe, Norma Graham, Geoff Meagher SJ, Deborah Manning, Saba Saba, Briar Carbone-Eyers, Christine Hambley, Eric Silver (family member of Cecile Hunt), Ralph Higgins, Kate Critchfield, Florentino Figueroa, Peter Curtis,

Roster for Eucharistic Celebrations

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<td>G. Coyne</td>
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Next Week’s Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7
2nd Reading Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
Gospel: John 4:5-42
Science And Religion Seminar
The Catholic Adult Education Centre is holding a seminar at the ACU North Sydney Campus on 25 March 2011 from 9am-3pm. All are invited to attend. The excellent speakers presenting are; Fr Brendan Purcell, Fr Richard Umbers, Prof James Franklin, Prof Neil Ormerod and the Hon Greg Donnelly. The topics discussed will indicate the impact on the Church, the scientific community and Parliament. Adults $37 / Student Concession $27. For more information and to register call 9646 9010 or visit www.caec.com.au.

Nominations For Parish Council
We are looking for three new members of the Parish Council. If you wish to nominate yourself or anyone else, please see Elizabeth Strutt at the Parish Office. Existing members of the Parish Council are: Chris Gration (Chair), Elizabeth Strutt, Helen McPake, John Deloughery, Peter Strain, Sue Crabbe, Tony Hunt, Chris Walters, Caroline Coggins, Christine Walters, Steve Sinn

A Lenten Afternoon
Talk, hear, pray about Lent in a suffering world. A Cry of the Heart: Making peace at Lent is a reflection afternoon from the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office. Join guest speakers Margaret Wiseman (Catholic Chaplain at Silverwater Women’s Correctional Centre) and Dr Gerard Goldman (theologian and Director of the Broken Bay Institute) for learning, conversation and prayer. Saturday, 09 April from 1.30 to 4.30pm at St Mary’s Catholic Church, 21 Swanston St, Erskineville (a 5 minute walk from Erskineville Station). Refreshments provided. RSVP is essential (with your name and contact) by Monday, 04 April. For more information contact Chantelle on 9390 5319 or chantelle.ogilvie@sydneycatholic.org.

Faith Development With The Catholic Education Centre
Term 2 at the Catholic Adult Education Centre starts on Monday, 02 May. Monday nights – The Spiritual Life with Fr John Flader, Thursday nights – History of Heresy (NEW!) with Mayte Ramos, and James McDonald is presenting Opening the Old Testament (NEW!). For more information go to www.caec.com.au, email study@caec.com.au or call Matthew on 9646 9010.

Repeat Notices
Invitation To A Forum With Dr. Anthony G Reddie
The National Council of Churches in Australia, The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission and The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry of the Sydney Archdiocese will be jointly hosting a forum with Dr. Reddie, Research Fellow in Black Theology on Wednesday, 30 March 2011. The theme of the forum is Sameness, Similarity and Difference: An Intercultural Theology for Human Solidarity and will be held at 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start in the Clancy, Gilroy Rooms, Level 5 Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney. There is no cost and all are welcome. For further information and to RSVP by 23rd March, please contact: grussell@ncaa.org.au or on 02 9299 2215