

**DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC  
TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,  
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA**

11 February 2018  
Bulletin for the Transfiguration

**HYMNS:** 747 37 358 822

**INTROIT:** The Mighty One, God, the LORD, has spoken. He has summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, which is perfect in beauty, God has shone forth. Our God will come and will not remain silent. A fire will devour before Him. It will be very stormy around Him. He will summon the heavens above and the earth, that He may judge His people: "Gather around Me, My devout people, who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!" The heavens have been proclaiming His righteousness. For God Himself is Judge.

Psalm 50:1-6

**COLLECT:** O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud, You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** 2 Kings 2:1-12 Elijah is taken up into heaven.  
2 Corinthians 3:12-18, 4:1-6 Being transformed into the same likeness.  
Mark 9:2-9 Jesus is transfigured.

## **SERMON: Mark 9:2-9 This s My Son... Listen to Him!**

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him, and led them up onto a high mountain, by themselves and alone. He was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and His clothes became dazzling and very white, whiter than any launderer on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> Then Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they began to talk with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tabernacles, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!” <sup>6</sup> For he did not know what to say, because they had become very afraid. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud came and overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud: “This is My Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!” <sup>8</sup> Suddenly, as they looked around, they did not see anyone with them any more except Jesus only. <sup>9</sup> While they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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### **We need to write to former MP, Philip Ruddock**

What is likely to be a long struggle to re-establish freedom of speech and freedom of religion now begins.

Despite the urging of a former Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, the Turnbull Government allowed a bill with no protection for freedom of speech and little protection for freedom of religion to become law.

This was the end result of the marriage plebiscite as it played out in the Parliament last month.

People who wish to speak publicly about marriage being exclusively between one man and one woman now risk being fined for bigotry.

Even before the law changed, a prominent leader of the same-sex marriage movement, Rodney Croome, called for legal action to be taken against Catholic Archbishop Julian Porteous.

Diversity officers tapped people working in big companies and an 18-year-old girl was sacked.

Their crimes? They believed marriage was only between man and woman. But in this new environment they are bigots who should be punished.

In its haste to legislate same-sex marriage before Christmas, the government kicked the can of free speech and freedom of religion down the road to a review by former MP Philip Ruddock.

With most MPs and Senators rejecting the reasonable accommodations for diversity of belief about marriage put forward in a bill sponsored by Senator James Paterson, precious freedoms have now been lost.

As John Howard warned, freedom now risks being “stuck in the sand.”

The Ruddock Review’s challenge is to put Humpty back together again. It is so important that we make our voices heard.

Whether or not freedom is restored will come down to a decision of the Turnbull Government once it receives recommendations from the Ruddock review.

It is vital that we speak up now.

You do not have to write a long submission, but you should implore the review to allow freedom of expression about marriage to be restored in Australia.

Submissions need to be sent by no later than this coming Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. Submissions can be made at <https://pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/religious-freedom-review/submission>.

In putting together a submission, here are some points you may wish to consider:

- Freedom of religion is more than freedom of worship, it is freedom to live out one's faith in public.
- People should be free to speak publicly about their religious view of marriage without fear of being taken to a government tribunal, as was Archbishop Julian Porteous in Tasmania.
- Parents should have the right to be notified of and then withdraw their children from classes teaching radical LGBTIQ sex and gender theory.
- Preachers should be allowed to place their sermons regarding man-woman marriage on-line without fear of being taken to an anti-discrimination tribunal or commission.
- People should not be forced into making statements about marriage or gender with which they disagree.
- State and federal anti-discrimination law should be amended to ensure that no-one can be prosecuted for expressing the view that marriage is between one man and one woman.
- People should not fear being sacked from their jobs (as happened to a young Canberra woman) because they express their views on marriage.
- There should be no legal detriment to anyone who expresses the view that marriage is between one man and one woman.
- People should not be coerced under threat of losing their job into resigning from the boards of religious organisations that dissent from the state's new definition of marriage.

*Welcome to all with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!*

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com)

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au).

**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

Wednesday, 14 February Ash Wednesday	18 February 1 Lent	25 February 2 Lent
7.30pm GRN Vespers	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	9.30am OAK HC Parish Service celebrating the 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AELC
<b>Wednesday, 14 February</b>		
READINGS: Joel 2:12-19; Luke 22:1, Matthew 26:3-5, Luke 22:3-5a, Matthew 26:15-16, Luke 22:7-9, Mark 14:13-16, Matthew 26:20, Luke 22:15-19, Matthew 26:27-28, Luke 22:24-30		
HYMNS: 59 112 327 48 v.1		
<b>Sunday, 18 February</b>		
READINGS: Genesis 22:1-18;	James 1:12-18;	Mark 1:9-15
HYMNS: 57 part 1 341 345 (852 842) 57 part 2		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight, 7.30pm. The congregation AGM will be held.

Tuesday, 13 February, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey.

Sunday, 18 February, 7.30pm. Parish AGM at Oakey.

Wednesday, 21 February, 7.30pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> mid-week Lenten Service at Oakey.

Pastor Sten Rydh (pronounced 'Reed') and his wife Elisabeth, and a couple others, are coming to Australia in February. Pastor Rydh is pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sweden. They are only a very small church, much like our own. Anyway, Pastor Rydh has been studying the AELC *Statement of Faith* and would like to meet with us while he is out here. They will be in our area on the weekend of the 24-25 of February, and would like to attend one of our worship services. Thus I have pushed forward by a week, the date of our parish service where we will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AELC to the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. This will give more of us a chance to meet with our visitors.