

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE FESTIVAL OF TRANSFIGURATION**  
**(AUGUST 13TH 2006).**

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, August 13th is the First Sunday after the Festival of Transfiguration (Koodaara Perunnal). The Holy Gospel reading for this Sunday is about Jesus telling the parable of the two sons to the chief priests and to the elders while he was teaching in the temple. In the parable, Jesus tells the story of how two sons live up to a promise of obedience as to illustrate the way to God's Kingdom.

The father always provided for everything that his two sons needed, including food, shelter and everything that he owned. In addition, he also asked them to work in his own vineyard. Working in the vineyard everyday was a way for the father to know that they appreciated all that he has done for them. The first son told his father to his face that he would not work for him. However, he changed his mind later and did what the father asked him. The second son did exactly the opposite: at first, he promised to work for his father, but did not. Jesus asked this question to the chief priests and to the elders: who was really the good son? Both sons disobeyed their father; but one repented and did what the father told him.

Jesus makes His point very clear. He is saying that good intentions are not enough and promises do not count unless they are performed. God wants to change our hearts so that we will show by our speech and by our actions that we respect His will and do it. God offers each of us the greatest treasure possible – unending peace, joy, happiness and life with Him in his kingdom.

Lord Jesus, change our heart and help us to respect your will and give us the strength, joy and determination to carry it out wholeheartedly”.

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.**

**Bible readings for Sunday, August 13th, 2006.**

**(First Sunday After the Festival of Transfiguration)**

**Before Holy Qurbana:**

Deuteronomy	-	25: 13-16
Psalms	-	27: 1-14
Ezekiel	-	7: 1-4

**Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles:	St. James	-	4: 7 5: 6
Epistles of St. Paul:	Philippians	-	4: 8-20
Holy Gospel:	St. Matthew	-	21: 28-32

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex