21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
22nd - 23rd August 2020

First Reading: Is 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-3.6.8.R. v.8

R/ Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

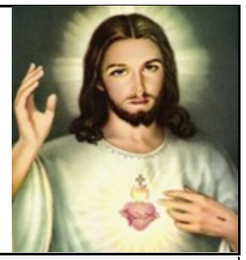
The question of today's Gospel is addressed to each of us, not just individually but also as members of the Church, sharers in the faith of the Church: Who do you say that I am?
The question matters for it is Jesus Himself who tells us that
He is the Way, He is the Truth, and He is the Life.
If we want to walk along the right way, really know the truth, and have life to the full, then we need to know, and love and serve Jesus – but it must be the real Jesus, not the Jesus of our own creating.
It must be the Jesus we meet in the Gospels and who is proclaimed by the Church.
Let us hear Him say to us, "Who do you say I am?"



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

Parish Contacts: Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



Office Hours:
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Assistant Priest:
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Deacon:
Yosef Meda, SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:
Ylenia Useli
shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:
Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:
Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),
Kay Dufty (secretary),
Tony Eley, Gerard Grant,
Ophelia Swai,
Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,
Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna and
Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:
Peter Constable (Chair)
0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:
Pauline O'Day (President)
Ph: 9484 2445

Parish Mass Schedule

Zoom Live Stream Masses

Monday – Friday at 9.10 am

Sunday at 10.30 am

Please call Fr Jan for
Zoom ID on: 0400469540

For other Online Mass Schedule see next page

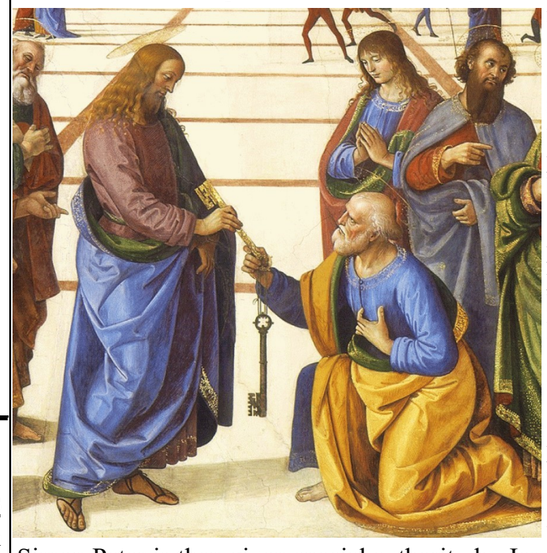
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
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Who Do You Say I Am? – Understanding Our Mission

Archbishop Desmond Tutu described the early Church like this: "People were attracted to it - not so much by the preaching, but by the fact that they saw Christians as a community, living a new life. They saw a community of persons who, whether poor or rich, male or female, gentile or of high or low social standing, young or old – all were about protecting, caring for each other and learning from each other. It was the lifestyle of the Christians that was doing the witnessing."

This is reminiscent of the comment ascribed to 'pagans' about the early church: "See how these Christians love one another!" (Acts)

Matthew's Gospel was written at time when Judaism and Christianity were redefining themselves in an era of oppression and varying styles of leadership. What is at the heart of the Gospel was to reveal to the world the 'good news' of 'God with us' in and through the person and ministry of Jesus. This was the solid foundation upon which the church - presented as community - would grow and through its disciples, reach out to all humanity.



Today's Gospel contains Peter's great statement of faith in Jesus, as well as laying the foundation of the church. Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity.

The disciples indicate that most people believe that he was a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. Simon Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to be no longer thinking as God does, but as humans.

But how, in his ministry, did Jesus demonstrate his mission as the anointed one of God? Wasn't it by his faithful attention to God's will for humanity? His message is of God's universal love and forgiveness, his selflessness and compassion is for all but particularly for those who were most excluded, vulnerable and suffering. He is reaching out to the rejected and ostracised.

Each of us is called to participate in God's mission by following in the footsteps of Jesus.

If Jesus asked me today: "Who do you say I am?" What would my life's witness be?

Peter, the 'Rock'

The first role Simon receives is indicated by a new name: 'Rock'. The identity between 'Peter' and 'Rock' – masked in English, more evident in Greek (petros, petra) – is perfect in Aramaic, the language Jesus actually spoke: 'You are Kepha ("Rock") and on this kepha (rocky ground) I will build my church'.

Peter is not 'rock' because of personal qualities of steadfastness or reliability. Jesus' passion will further expose his already demonstrated tendency to falter. He is 'rock' because of the insight of faith which God has communicated to him. Built on this 'rock', the Church will be a community of life. 'Gates of the underworld' is a biblical expression for the realm of the dead as the inevitable destination of all human beings. Its 'gates' will not prevail against the Church either in the sense that, built upon a 'rock,' it will survive all attempts to destroy it or, in the sense that its members, even though they die physically, will not be held confined within the realm of the dead but will burst through its 'gates' in resurrection (see 27:52-53).

Prayer for the People of Lebanon

God of Compassion,

You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve. We pray for the people of Lebanon in this time of disaster.

Embrace those who died so suddenly and console those who grieve for loved ones.

United in solidarity with our Lebanese sisters and brothers we pray:

For healing and strength for those injured and suffering

That the international community will respond with generosity and compassion

And that stability and peace will be restored in Lebanon.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

- Jo Brady RSJ Caritas Australia

Dates to Remember

Sunday 6th August: Child Protection Sunday

6th - 12th September: National Child Protection Week

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:
https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass
Or: http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand

TV Masses

Channel 44 (31): Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday at 8:30am

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Pope Francis Announces Series of Talks on Catholic Social Doctrine in Light of Covid-19 Pandemic

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and social and environmental crises worldwide, Pope Francis announced he would begin a new series of general audience talks aimed at helping to build "the future that we need." The coronavirus pandemic has infected almost 22 million people, causing the deaths of over 776,000 in some 213 countries and territories across the globe.

"In the next few weeks, I invite you to tackle together the pressing questions that the pandemic has brought to the fore, social ills above all. And we will do it in the light of the Gospel, of the theological virtues and of the principles of the church's social doctrine," he said on Aug. 5 during his weekly general audience.

"We will explore together how our Catholic social tradition can help the human family heal this world that suffers from serious illnesses," the pope said.

Social Justice Statements



In a tradition reaching back to 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops release major social justice statements each year in time for Social Justice Sunday. Through this tradition they contribute to the development of local Catholic Social Teaching. The statements encourage the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. They remind us of the social dimension of the mission of the Church.

Previously Social Justice Sunday was celebrated on the last Sunday in September. From 2020, Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated in Australia on the last Sunday in August.

The 2020-2021 Social Justice Statement is entitled **To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today.** It can be found on:

https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2020

Vatican Says Baptisms that Used a Modified Formula are Not Valid

Catholic News Service

Changing the words of the formula for baptism render the sacrament invalid, said the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Specifically, a baptism administered with the formula "We baptise you…" instead of "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" is not valid because it is the person of Christ through the minister who is acting, not the assembly, the congregation said.

Initiative of the Victorian Council of Churches – Staying Connected…Doing Ministry Safely Online

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is participating in an initiative with the Victorian Council of Churches and the Commission for Children and Young People during Child Protection Week (6-12th September).

The session will be introduced by Liana Buchanan, Commissioner for Children and Young People and will focus on the importance of staying connected with children and young people during COVID-19 and also how we might engage in ministry safely in an online environment.

If you are interested in attending this webinar, please register for via this link: www.trybooking.com/bkzso

10 Principals of Catholic Social Teaching

The human person is the clearest reflection of God's presence in the world.

Catholic social teaching is designed to protect and promote the dignity of every person.

Here are the 10 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

1. The Principle of Respect for Human Dignity
2. The Principle of Respect for Human Life
3. The Principle of Association
4. The Principle of Participation
5. The Principle of Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
6. The Principle of Solidarity
7. The Principle of Stewardship
8. The Principle of Subsidiarity
9. The Principle of Human Equality
10. The Principle of Common Good

For more information see: http://www.meetingpoint.org.au/assets/mp_s17_tpocst.pdf

Caritas AUSTRALIA

Dear Friends,

The final result for the Project Compassion 2020 campaign are in, and I wish to thank everyone in Melbourne who has contributed to an amazing result, considering bushfires, lockdowns, and the well-known difficulties that our schools, parishes and other institutions have had to work under since March.

The people of Melbourne contributed $1.216 million this year - a truly outstanding result which speaks to generosity, and the willingness of so many people to send their contributions directly to Caritas, and to the many priests and people in parishes, and school families and staffs, that made the extra effort to raise donations and send them in. We're very aware that many of our contributors are themselves dealing with the economic effects of lockdowns and restrictions, including unemployment and loss of business, which makes the contributions even more exceptional. Again, thank you for your generosity.

Deacon Jim Curtain
Diocesan Director, Caritas Australia

Collections

1st Collection: $210.00
2nd Collection: $60.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



WE PRAY FOR:



The elderly and the sick

Anthony, Lopisoni Amato, Peter Bourke, Maria Crocco, Nicola D'Orazio, Charlie Fragiacomo, Anthony Joseph, Stephen Meese, Kim Maguire, Kevin Sievers & Bronislawa Slobodzian



7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat

This reflection- retreat offers a prayerful way for believers preparing to celebrate as World Day of Prayer for Creation (1st September), proclaimed jointly by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholome & Pope Francis from the Vatican and from the Phanar, 1st September 2017. This seven-day reflection reinforces the officially sanctioned ecumenical celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Creation. For more information see: https://www.catholic.org.au/organisation-documents/catholic-earthcare-australia-1/2291-1-june-2020-7-days-creation/file

Resources for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Please share these online resources with your families.

The first resource contains the Sunday readings and is for families to share.

The family resource is designed for families with young children.

Spiritual Leadership Program

The Spiritual Leaders Program is a one-year, part-time program held on Friday mornings (and some Friday afternoons). It is suitable for people in outreach ministries, spiritual formation, and various positions of leadership such as priests and ministers, lay ecclesial ministers, community and spiritual leaders, chaplains, pastoral carers, and those in health and education. The program, which commences in Feb 2021, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Previous participants have commented that this Program has been transformational in terms of their personal spirituality and their leadership skills. Fee-Help may be available. Apply to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Brochure and application form at: www.heartoflife.melbourne or tel 03 9890 1101.

Sacred Heart Bulletin

The Sacred Heart Bulletin is available online and if you would like to have a copy emailed to you, please send an email to: sacredheart3072@gmail.com or call the office on 94803398 to be added to the email list.