

Jesus takes his closest followers to Caesarea Philippi to have an important conversation. Two key things happen. Firstly, the disciples experience a moment of real insight in their understanding of Jesus.

Jesus asks Simon Peter: "But who do you say that I am?" With great trust and a growing faith, Peter replies: "You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God."

For centuries the Jews longed for the coming of the messiah. By calling Jesus the messiah, Peter proclaims that Jesus is the one for whom they had waited. Jesus is the one who will fulfill the hopes and aspirations of Israel. Jesus is God's anointed one; the one in whom God's Spirit dwells.

Peter watched Jesus embrace people; especially the sick, the poor, the sinners. He witnessed firsthand Jesus loving people into life. He saw the face of God in the face and actions of Jesus. Ultimately, Peter received the gift of God's revelation, which allowed him to understand more clearly who Jesus is, what is Jesus' mission and to recognise the significance of Jesus' special relationship with His Father.

In the verses that follow today's gospel, Jesus challenges the disciples to an even deeper understanding, by instructing them about what kind of Messiah he is and what this will demand of them. Accepting Jesus as messiah means that they must also be ready to accept that He will 'suffer with' people, especially the outcasts; but that God will ultimately vindicate His beloved Son.

Secondly, Jesus establishes his disciples as a community. In Mt 7:24, Jesus told his disciples to build on rock. It's on the rock that is Peter that Jesus builds His house; a community of disciples, called the "church".

Peter is not "rock" because of personal qualities of steadfastness or reliability – remember that later on, Peter not only denies Jesus, but deserts him! Rather, Peter is "rock" because of the insight of faith which God has communicated to him. Built on this "rock", the Church will be a community that will survive attempts to destroy it and its members will not be confined to the dead, but rather resurrection awaits them.

The church which Jesus is establishing is for Israel and the Gentile world; for anyone who is willing to listen to His word, live it and believe in Him. Peter is given the keys not to close but to open and as first among the apostles, he has the responsibility to carry on Jesus' mission of preaching and teaching the good news.

As we gather in our own communities of faith, Peter is our model as we continue the mission of Jesus in our time; saying in our own way and our own words, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

David J Hore CSsR

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Our Sick: Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Mary Dillon

<u>Anniversaries In August</u>: Vin O'Connor, Mary Maslin, Etty McKinnon, Joan Densley, Mary Wintle, Frank Maguire, Arthur Hammett, Martin Vogels, Norah Place, Jacinta Bracks, Pat Carey, Josie Bird, Fr Brendan Davey, Richard Lowry, Patrick Lowry, Margaret Reid (Lowry), Alieda Lowry

Recent Deaths: Ron Smith, Kevin Baxter, Bert Pepperkamp



"Our Parish Community wishes to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Giraiwurrung lands on which we live, work and worship Our God."



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 27th August

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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...Thanks be to God.

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.

- I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you.
 I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
- I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
- 3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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...All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 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 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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 bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord...Thanks be to God.

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Social Justice Statement 2023-2024

The Australian bishops' have launched the 2023-2024 Social Justice Statement, "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples". Copies of the statement and resources are available from the diocesan website <u>https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/</u>. Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on August 27.



Knights of the Southern Cross Victoria's Archbishop's Dinner – Save the date The annual Archbishop's Dinner in support of Corpus Christ Seminary, will be held on Friday, September 1, 2023 at Moonee Valley Racecourse at 7.00pm. Guest speaker is Corpus Christi College Seminary Rector, Fr Cameron Forbes. Scan or click the QR code for more information from Facebook.



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

The CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal is held in August each year in partnership with parishes and is their major annual fundraiser. CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised

support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community. You can donate online, ph. (03) 9287 5513 or scan or click the QR code for more information.

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND APPEAL

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests next weekend.

Creating a secure retirement for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priest's are currently supported by this fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units and some live in supported accommodation.

Season of Creation Resources 2023

Every year from September 1 - October 4, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow ", drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. The following resources for the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at <u>www.thepopevideo.org</u>.

Pope's intention for August – For World Youth Day: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. Lord, hear us.

Interested in helping at the Timboon Hospital, visiting the sick? This would require one visit a month, chatting with patients who do not have family or visitors.

More information: Patty Martin on 0400 533 734 or 5598 5495

Timboon 2023	27th August W&A 9:00am	3rd September Closed	10th September W&A 9:00am
Welcome	N McKinnon		L Tregea
Leaders	K Currell J McInerney		E O'Connor A Vogels
Statue	K Currell		C & P Martin
Reader	T O'Connor		A Vogels
POF	G Vogels		L McInerney
E.M.H.C.	L McInerney		A McMeel
Bulletin	P Nicholson M Moloney	Denny Family	Denny Family
Slides	A Vogels	K Currell	K Currell
Simpson	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.	Mass 9:00 a.m.	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.