



21st SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A

27 August 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

Father,

help us to seek the values that will bring us lasting joy in this changing world.

Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 Hilkiyah.

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response: Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. 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.)

2. 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: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

Gospel Acclamation

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: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

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.



REFLECTION on Matthew 16:13-20 by Sr. Mary M. McGlone

This scene opens with the most important, intimate, and serious question one person can ever ask another: "Who do you say that I am?" The disciples couldn't dodge the question with an indirect, "They say ...". So, Peter took the risk and blurted out what they had been thinking and hoping: "You are the Christ."

That was no simple statement. Although he surely didn't understand all its ramifications, calling Jesus "the Christ" entailed a commitment as radical as any vow. It's as strong a statement as, "Yes, I will marry you," or "I am consecrating my whole life to this." Peter's confession that Jesus was God's Son, implied a promise to follow, to listen, to obey Jesus as one would obey God alone. His statement indicated that absolutely nothing in the world could take precedence over his response to what Jesus would ask of him.

Of course, Peter did not fulfill his promise immediately or flawlessly. He continued to dispute Jesus' predictions about suffering, he wanted to put limits on forgiveness, he bragged and argued with other disciples. Peter took the risk over and over. He had committed himself by saying, "You are the Christ," and he strove to live that commitment for the rest of his life.

It seems that Jesus chose Peter, not for what he could accomplish or for his wisdom or strength, but for his capacity for metanoia, his willing ability to change and learn, to cultivate an ever-larger vision. Peter's faith allowed him to grow into his commitment and that faith is the rock Jesus chose as the foundation of his church. Peter's faith allowed him to weep for betraying Jesus: Knowing his need for conversion, he could be a worthy leader, the keeper of the keys for a frail church.

All the components of today's liturgy — from readings to the creed to the command, "Do this in memory of me" — conspire to shake us up. Today, we find ourselves called to answer Jesus' question for ourselves. Happily, we don't need to figure it out alone, nor live it alone. God's revelation comes through community, word and sacrament. In that, we can believe, and that's awesome.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for Pope Francis on his apostolic visit to Mongolia this week. May he confirm that nation's small Christian community in the faith of Peter the apostle. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray on this Social Justice Sunday with and for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. May we renew our engagement with each other by respectful listening, learning and loving. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray this Vocations Awareness week - O God, pour out in your Church a spirit of reverence and courage, to raise up worthy ministers for your people and make them ardent, yet gentle heralds of your Gospel. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the million refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries from war-torn Sudan. May emergency humanitarian aid save them from starvation and destitution. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the human family. May the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation (1 September) draw all people together in love and care for the world God has given us. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the many who are struggling to find affordable housing in Australia. May local, state and federal authorities join forces with industry to alleviate their need. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, especially Ted Hart, Peter Gillan, Penny Crawford, Jenny Bodman, Ross Lawless, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers, that they may be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the recently deceased, Diane Sutherland and Bernie Fletcher and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they share to the full in the banquet of eternal life. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,

may the healing power of your love guide and direct our efforts to please you in all things.

Amen.

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Weekday Mass: Tuesday Mass resumes next Tuesday 29th at 10am.

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Sacramental Programs: these will now be 'Parish Based' and will be conducted in the Church on the Saturdays preceding the ceremony. **Reconciliation** will be held on 9th September, with preparation sessions on Saturdays from 5-5.45pm on 26 August and 2 Sept. Our grateful thanks to Cathy Ffrench and Ann Tracey for taking on this important ministry.

A date has been set to farewell Brother Brian. Sunday 17th Sept, 2-4pm at the Club for afternoon tea This will be a self-catered event. We are all sorry that Brian is leaving us as he has become such a loved member of our parish family. Germaine will have a sheet at the back of the church for people to put down their names if they are attending and/or providing a plate of goodies. The Vicar General, Father Richard Thompson, will be attending as well as some clergy with whom Brian has shared ministry.

Parish Meeting 15th August: the plan for the building of units has proved unviable and so the Finance Committee sought the agreement of the parish to instead redevelop the Presbytery itself by creating an apartment upstairs and refurbishing the parish rooms downstairs. Those members present agreed to this being investigated.

Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm Saturday 26 August Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly wood Raffle. Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Home cooking is much appreciated. Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench 0418 262 011

31 August - Integral ecology pilgrimage 6:30 PM

With ACU, the Archdiocese is convening a series of online dialogues on Care for Our Common Home teaching as first steps in our synodal journey for the year of the Holy Spirit. Six Thursday evenings 6.30-8.30pm 31-Aug/5-Oct. Information - <https://cgatholic.org.au/services-directory/caring-for-creation/> Register at <http://bit.ly/3rTieKp> If anyone is interested in undertaking this pilgrimage, please contact Bronnie Schlager for more information.

Readings for Mass: 1st: Isaiah 22:19-23. 2nd: Romans 11:33-36. Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Next week: 1st: Jeremiah 20:7-9. 2nd: Romans 12:1-2. Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27.

Radio Church: Sundays at 6pm on FM 88.9

Please note: I have returned to Tuesday office hours 9.30am – 3.30pm. Any bulletin items to be sent in by lunchtime Tuesday please.

Wednesday 13 September CatholicCare Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Program 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Marriage Preparation program for engaged couples. Includes FOCCUS questionnaire, dinner, evening formation program and a private, follow-up couple discussion with a CatholicCare counsellor. The cost for the whole package is \$300 per couple.

Information and registration - www.marriagefamily.org.au

Enquiries: Helena Zobec marriage.preparation@cq.org.au or 0405 440 463

Ministries for our Mass:	26 Aug	2 Sept	9 Sept	16 September
Welcomer:	Geraldine	Cathy F	Helen P	Geraldine
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)			
Reader 1:	Wendy M-B	Ann T	Michael	Bobby
Reader 2:	Germaine	Wendy H	Cathy F	Tommy
Ministries of service:	25 Aug	1 September	8 Sept	15 September
Altar Decorating:	Margaret	Joy	Helen P	Cathy F
Ladies – I put the artificial flowers on the altar but if you have flowers, please use them				
Cleaning:	Pauline & Wendy		Bronnie & Felix	
Counters:	1 st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie.		2 nd : Sunday: Wendy H	
	3 rd Sunday: volunteer please		4 th : Phil Owen	
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.				

Keep warm and take care of each other,

Helen

The Parish of St Bede’s Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.