



Gospel Mt 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.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros.

Jesus puns with the nickname: 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build *my* church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus).

Notice that Jesus only makes promises about '*my* church', not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

Fortunately, we have a successor of St Peter responding to our Risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi, 'Rebuild *my* church'.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the 265th successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity.

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The Living Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

23 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 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

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.)*
- 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 Rom 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.

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!

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HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

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Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel
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Community: Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Mon 8:30am, Tues 7:00pm, Wed 8:30am, Thur 8:30am, Fri 7:00am,
Sat 8:30am. Public Holidays 8:30am

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: 22nd Ordinary (A) Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27.

Fr Stan writes ...

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. Peter is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

As I mentioned last week, I am in isolation in preparation for my hip replacement surgery this coming Friday 28 August. I pray for everyone who is struggling with different issues during this time of pandemic and I humbly ask that you continue to pray for me. Looking forward to returning to my duties in the parish very soon. God bless.

Our Flame Gift Shop is OPEN! Check out the great selection of cards and gifts for all occasions. Come in and visit us and see our range of sacramental and general gifts. There is something for everyone. All proceeds benefit our parish!



The **Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools** invites applications for the role of Family Educator based in the following Catholic Primary Schools.

Family Educator

Location: Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School North Ryde

Commencement Date: 27 January 2021

Closing Date: 28 August 2020

Capacity: 38 hours per fortnight (0.5 FTE)

More information <https://www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au/new/educator>

THANK YOU! We are most grateful to those who go out of their way to continue to contribute to the parish finances. With fewer people attending Mass, our collections have been down, so again, many thanks to those who drop in their contributions at the parish office and to those that do so online. This is very helpful to meet our ongoing running expenses.

THANK YOU from the Parish Finance Committee

Natural Fertility Awareness Week from 17th to 23rd August – Are you wondering how you can find out more about your reproductive health during these times of isolation and social distancing? Billings LIFE has the answer!! Why not learn how to track your fertility using, Fertility Pinpoint™- it's more than an App! It is an online service that provides you with your own personal accredited Billings Ovulation Method® tutor who can help you learn how to track your unique cycles and recognise your fertility and infertility on a daily basis – all remotely and safely.

Billings Ovulation Method® is scientifically validated and simple to use. It's the healthy alternative.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Barbara Kortynski, Dorota Gorzkowski.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Victor Pau Woo, Frank Lukas, Ronald Madafiglio, Buena Delos Santos, Gina Rubino recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Orlando Dalumpines, Enid Swan, Antonio Fonti, Onofrio Casamento, Domenica Casamento, Joseph Casamento and the deceased members of the Di Tano, Smith, Shewan, Holland, Granger, Spora, Kearins, Zammit and Zahra families.

Parent Line: 1300 1300 52

Many families are in the midst of or are facing serious challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and need extra support but don't know where to start. Parent Line can help parents by providing support and strategies to manage. Call us 7 days a week on 1300 1300 52.

Prayer for the end of the virus

Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.