

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 loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2020

## TREASURED KNOWLEDGE

Jesus questions his disciples about popular perceptions of who he is. Their report shows that people cast him in familiar but totally inadequate roles. The reality requires a leap in imagination and faith achieved in Simon Peter's response: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'. Beyond being Messiah of Israel, Jesus is God's Son in a unique way.

Peter has conferred a title upon Jesus. Now Jesus confers a blessing and three roles upon him.

He is 'blessed', not because he is virtuous, but because God has revealed to him a knowledge that unaided human understanding could never achieve. Everything the Church has to say flows from this God-given knowledge of Jesus. This is the inexhaustible treasure that it holds in trust for the world.

Simon's first role is indicated by his name: 'Peter' (= 'Rock'). He is 'rock', again not because of his personal qualities, but because of his knowledge of Jesus. Built on this 'rock', the Church will be a community of life, against which the powers of death ('gates of the underworld') will not prevail.

The gift of keys, a biblical image (see the First Reading) signifies delegated authority (from Jesus) in the household of God (the Church).

The final role, 'binding and loosing', refers to the power to interpret and apply Jesus' authoritative teaching to new situations. In this way the Church, as both expression and foretaste of God's reign ('Kingdom of Heaven') on earth, is equipped to discern God's will in the changing circumstances that will confront its passage down the ages.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

## FIRST READING

Isa 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.

**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.**

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

Rom 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.

**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!**

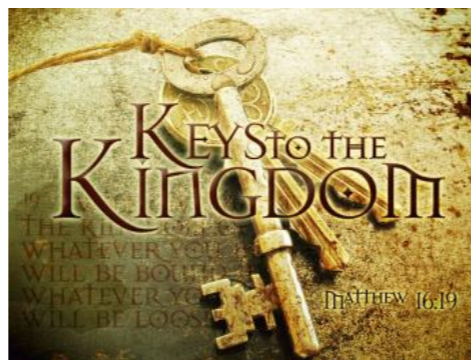


*Please pray for:* Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

### Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

#### Sunday 23rd August 2020 – Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sunday, 23 Aug	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 23 Aug	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 24 Aug	12.35 pm	St Bartholomew, apostle (Feast)
Tuesday, 25 Aug	12.35 pm	Sts Louis and Joseph Calasanz (Optional)
Wednesday, 26 Aug	12.35 pm	Wednesday – Week 21, Ordinary Time
Thursday, 27 Aug	12.35 pm	St Monica (Memorial)
Friday, 28 Aug	12.35 pm	St Augustine, bishop, doctor (Memorial)
Saturday, 29 Aug	No Mass	Passion of St John the Baptist (Memorial)



### Entrance Antiphon:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

### Communion Antiphon:

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

**Saint Bartholomew** – One of the twelve foundation stones of the Church, this apostle was from Cana in Galilee. Because the lists of the Twelve differ, Bartholomew is usually identified with Nathaniel of Cana, described in the fourth Gospel. Tradition holds that after the Ascension, he preached the Gospel in India or Armenia and was martyred there.

**Saint Louis** – born in 1214, Louis IX became King of France while quite young. A Franciscan tertiary, he was a model of prayer, kindness and Christian courtesy. Happily married, Louis cared for the people of France, educated his eleven children and tried to advance God's kingdom. He knew Saint Thomas Aquinas, who taught at the University of Paris. Louis undertook two Crusades to the Holy Land, and died, devoutly and ingloriously, near Carthage in Africa in 1270.

**Saint Joseph Calasanz** – born in Aragon, Spain in 1556, Joseph led the life of a rich, young man for 36 years. Converted to Christ, he gave up all his possessions to become a priest, zealous for the reform of the Church. Mysteriously attracted to Rome in 1592, he found there his true work – founding free schools to educate all classes. The schools and religious order (the Piarists) flourished in Europe. Joseph's latter years were most difficult. He died in 1648 and was canonised in 1767.

**Saint Monica** – was born in Roman Africa in 332, Monica was a young girl when she married Patricius, a non-Christian older man. They had four children and through Monica's prayer and influence, her husband received baptism. Monica poured out tears and prayers to God, for the conversion of her oldest son, Augustine. After he was baptised, Monica died peacefully in 387 in Ostia, Italy, her mission accomplished.

**Saint Augustine** – this great Doctor of the Church was born in 354 and had a most profound effect on Western theology. Before his conversion, Augustine was a Manichean, lived with a concubine and fathered a son. Through grace and his mother's prayers, he embraced Christianity and was baptised in Milan by Saint Ambrose. Returning to Africa, Augustine led an ascetic life and was elected Bishop of Hippo. He was a totally dedicated pastor for 34 years. By his sermons and prolific writings, he fought errors, explained the faith, and laid the foundations for much of Catholic social teaching and theology. Augustine died in 430, as the Vandals besieged Hippo and the Roman world was collapsing. Over the centuries, Augustine's 'Confessions' have become his most widely read work.

**Passion of Saint John the Baptist** – The execution of Saint John the Baptist is recorded in the Gospels (Matthew 14; Mark 6) and is placed by the historian, Josephus, at the fort of Macherus, near the Dead Sea. As early as the fifth century, a commemoration of Saint John the Baptist was kept on this day (29th August) at Jerusalem. It probably marks the anniversary of the dedication of the basilica in his honour at Sebaste (Palestine) where, according to tradition, he was buried.

**JRS Appeal for Foodbank Donations** – The Jesuit Refugee Service mobile foodbank is a huge and growing operation. Since 1st April, they have collectively fed more than 5,000 women, children and men who have lost jobs, been excluded from Federal Gov't financial support and cannot return home. Their stocks of rice, pasta, oil, tuna and long life milk are **running low** and they need our help. Please visit – <http://jrs.org.au/how-to-help-refugees-and-people-seeking-.../> to learn how you can help. Food drop off points are around Sydney, including Two Wolves Cantina, Cnr Broadway & City Road. And this short video shows what happens to food donations that are made – <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=293160638622911>


### Regular Confession Times in St Benedict's Church:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)  
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)


### Mass at St James' Church, Forest Lodge:

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm  
Sunday: 8 am, 9.30 am & 11 am  
Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am  
Saturday (morning): 8.30am

**The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office**



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the **Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office** on ph 02 9390 5812.



A VOCATION VIEW: 'One thing only I ask of you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord, whenever you may be.' – *Saint Monica to her son, Saint Augustine*

**Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – Here is the link to this Sunday's Mass – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (23rd August 2020) – [https://youtu.be/DYFTE\\_jkmo](https://youtu.be/DYFTE_jkmo)**

**Next Sunday, 30th August is Social Justice Sunday 2020!** The theme of the 2020-2021 Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement is – **To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today**. It encourages faith communities, governments and each one of us to make mental health a priority. It is a timely message in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. The Statement encourages us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. This year, the Statement will not be available in hard copy but can be downloaded from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice website using the following link – <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

**Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Parish Safeguarding Volunteer Online Induction Training, Working With Children Check & Code of Conduct** St Benedict's Parish, Chippendale (Broadway) requires all of our volunteers to complete the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer online training, obtain a Working With Children Check and sign a Code of Conduct. It is MANDATORY that volunteers in all parishes comply with the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office training. Please contact Julie in the parish office on 8204 4378 or email – [enquiries@stbenedicts.org.au](mailto:enquiries@stbenedicts.org.au) to obtain the link to the online training and required forms which will be sent to you via email. Thank you.