



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.

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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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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 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.

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

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!

**THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY
FEAST DAY - 22 AUGUST**

Father,
you have given us the mother of your son
to be our Queen and mother.
With the support of her prayers
may we come to share the glory
of your children in the kingdom of heaven.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God. for ever and ever.
Amen

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK
Bernadette Camilleri, Gerald Jongebloed,
RECENTLY DECEASED
Vincenzo D'Agostino, Serafina Di Natale,
Vinn Beasley
ANNIVERSARIES
Rocco Cesile, Orazio Cesile, Aloysius,
Katerina & Rosa Grbac

PARISH SUPPORT

We are most grateful for your contributions during this challenging time. Thank you all for your support. Online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C
BSB: 083 347 Account No. 66541 7521
Reference as your first initial then surname, or remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account
BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 53530 4676
Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 24 August	St Bartholomew
Thursday 27 August	St Monica
Friday 28 August	St Augustine
Saturday 29 August	The Passion of St John the Baptist

COVID-19 STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS

With Stage 4 restrictions in place, our Parish Office is closed. Parish Secretary, Helena Meredith is working remotely from home. These are challenging times. Please email if you need anything or call 9337 4141 and leave a message. We will respond to calls as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Please do not risk a fine by leaving your home outside the permitted hours of 8pm and 5am or travelling more than 5kms from your home. If you have envelopes for the weekend collections, please contact me if they need to be collected, or keep them with you until we are able to open again. Please consider changing to credit card, direct debit or direct online banking. We can assist you with setting this up. May God bless you all.

Fr Arockia Sebastian

CELEBRATION OF PARISH SACRAMENTS

Please keep in your prayers the school children and RCIA candidates who would have been celebrating their Confirmation and First Eucharist during these past months. These have all been important events impacted by Covid-19. We hope to celebrate the sacraments when it is safe to do so. Please also continue to pray for the children and families who are awaiting baptism of their babies.

CARITAS – LEBANON APPEAL

Caritas has committed to provide immediate response to our brothers and sisters devastated by this disaster. Through its in-country staff and partners in Lebanon, the wider Caritas network is working to deliver:

- Food and water
- Hygiene kits including masks and soap.
- Material for shelter repairs and the clean-up of debris.
- Medication and other health services.

If you wish to donate, please go to:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergencv-response/middle-east-emergencv-appeal>

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM COVONAVIRUS



O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

- Prayer originated from

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/pope-francis-prayer-our-lady-protection-coronavirus.html>

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x

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ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Phone: 03 9337 4111

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Administration: Ms Belinda McPherson & Mrs Sherrill Johnson

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.

All staff and volunteers in our parish must have a current Working with Children Check.

ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE, ESSENDON

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 will close Friday 9th October 2020. Our next Virtual Tour will be held on Wednesday 2nd September. Book your place at columba.vic.edu.au

AVE MARIA COLLEGE YEAR 7 – 2022

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 close Friday 9th October 2020. Contact the Registrar on 9331 9308 or via email at registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au