



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

27 August 2023

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.

- 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.

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.)

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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**OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
90 - 92 MONASH STREET, SUNSHINE 3020**



Tel: 94 01 63 44 Email: sunshine@cam.org.au
 Website: www.pol.org.au/sunshine/Home.aspx
 Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Wed 10am-4.00pm; Fri 10am-3.00pm.
Sunday Masses: *English* - Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm
Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* Sunday 2.30pm; *Tongan* TBC
Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm
Mass Times: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm
Confessions: Saturdays 9.30am (*English or Vietnamese*) **Novena:** Tuesday 8.00pm

VOLUNTEERS THANKSGIVING MASS - Sunday 10 September
 MASS at 10.30am followed by a cuppa.
All parish volunteers - Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Cleaners, Musicians /Choirs, counters, etc. are invited.

MASS INTENTIONS Aug 27-Sept 2
Sat 5.30pm William Martin RIP
Sun 9.00am Concetta Carnovale RIP
 Chris Basadur RIP
 10.30am Vincent Tuyen Nguyen RIP
 5.30pm *Pro Populo*
Mon 9.00am Valentas RIP
Tues 7.30pm Parish Intention
Wed 9.00am Parish Intention
Thur 9.00am Bernie Jekic RIP
Fri 11.00am Thanksgiving for Good Health
Sat 9.00am Parish Intention

“Come to me all you who labour and carry a heavy burden.”
Matthew 11:28-30
You are invited on Fridays
 to come and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:
12noon until 3.00pm.



DONATIONS to support our parish **SCAN** this QR
Thank you!



CONNIE CUSCHIERI
FUNERAL Monday 28 August
11.30am (Rosary at 11.15am)

Week 1: Sept 2/3	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Andrea Borges	Lucy Sgro	Jannelli Campana	Nenita Santos
Extraordinary Ministers	Mary Rapa	Vickie Blampied	Anita Mastroianni	Celine Rivera
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Emmanuel Campana	Eldred Rivera

‘Oh, the Depths!’: Scott Hahn Reflects on the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Isaiah 22:15, 19–23; Psalm 138:1–3, 6, 8; Romans 11:33–36; Matt 16:13–20*

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!” Paul exclaims in today’s Second Reading. Today’s Psalm, too, takes up the triumphant note of joy and thanksgiving. Why?



Because in the Gospel, the heavenly Father reveals the mystery of His kingdom to Peter.

With Peter, we rejoice that Jesus is the anointed Son promised to David, the one prophesied to build God’s temple and reign over an everlasting kingdom.

What Jesus calls “my Church” is the kingdom promised to David’s son. As we hear in today’s First Reading, Isaiah foretold that the keys to David’s kingdom would be given to a new master, who would rule as father to God’s people.

Jesus, the root and offspring of David, alone holds the kingdom’s keys.

In giving those keys to Peter, Jesus fulfills that prophecy, establishing Peter—and all who succeed him—as holy father of His Church.

His Church, too, is the new house of God, the spiritual temple founded on the “rock” of Peter and built up out of the living stones of individual believers.

Abraham was called “the rock” from which the children of Israel were hewn. And Peter becomes the rock from which God raises up new children of God.

The word Jesus uses -“church” (*ekklesia* in Greek) - was used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament for the “assembly” of God’s children after the Exodus.

His Church is the “assembly of the firstborn”, established by Jesus’ exodus. Like the Israelites, we are baptised in water, led by the Rock, and fed with spiritual food. Gathered at His altar, in the presence of angels, we sing His praise and give thanks to His holy name.

FATHERS DAY - Special Collection for our Retired Priests **NEXT WEEKEND**
JOB VACANCIES in the Archdiocese including: Personal Assistant, Western Region; Parish Secretary, St Dominic's Melton; Evangelisation Coordinator, St Catherine of Siena Caroline Springs; Audio Technician, Radio Maria Preston; College Registrar, CTC East Melbourne; Cleaner & Housekeeper, Corpus Christi College Carlton.
 Details can be viewed at [Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic](#)

Child Safety Reminders & Important notice for Parents
 •Please accompany your child if they need to leave the building.
 •Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.
Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and vulnerable people.