

From Sunday's Gospel



Jesus told his disciples to get into the boat and go across to the other side of the lake, while he went up into the hills to pray. The boat was battered by the waves and a strong wind.

Then Jesus came, walking on the sea. The disciples were terrified, 'It's a ghost,' they cried. Jesus said, 'Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.' Peter said, 'Lord, if it is you tell me to come to you on the water.' Jesus said, 'Come!' So Peter started to walk on the water. But then he grew frightened and began to sink. 'Lord, save me!' he cried. At once Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him. 'Man of little faith,' Jesus said, 'Why did you doubt?' As Jesus and Peter got into the boat the wind dropped. The others in the boat bowed down before Jesus and said, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 9th August 2020. Matt. 14:13-21
(the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)



Pope Francis writes, "My dear young people we all have in our hearts some areas of unbelief. Let us say to the Lord, 'I believe!' To believe means to put our lives in the hands of God, especially in

our most difficult moments." Today's word is **Believe**. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reveals the wonderful and extraordinary power he has received from his Father by walking on the water. For a while Peter's belief was really tested. Jesus invited Peter to believe and he makes the same invitation to you and me. Belief in Jesus is a gift from God that greatly enriches our lives. Like Peter, we may sometimes have doubts, but even when we do Jesus never leaves us. He stretches out his hand to us and helps us through difficult times like he did with Peter when he took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink. How are we going to grow in our faith in Jesus this coming week? The best way is to ask Jesus to deepen our faith in him.



Sacred Heart & St William

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Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Sunday Mass in the Newsletter

This newsletter covers the following Four Sundays

**The 19th—22nd Sundays in Ordinary Time
August 9th—30th 2020 (Matthew's Gospel)**

The intentions are as follows:

- Sunday August 9th:
The Ivatt's Family & Friends
- Sunday August 16th
People of the Parish
- Sunday August 23rd:
People of the Parish
- Sunday August 30th:
People of the Parish

Mass will be live streamed on each of these Sundays

The Church will remain closed until further notice.

In case of emergency and a priest is needed please contact Deacon Peter Rudd or phone Holy Redeemer Parish, Huddersfield on 01484 531483.

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Sunday August 16th—The Assumption Luke 1:39-56

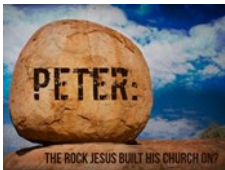


My great friend Fr Ernesto used to say to me when I sent him a copy of the homily, 'Bernardo unite heaven and earth!' I thought of him with a smile when thinking of the readings for today's feast which takes the place of the 20th Sunday of the Year, because this

feast invites us to think of the 'earthly' Mary of Luke's gospel and the 'heavenly' Mary who, because of her unique relationship with Jesus as his Mother, is, we believe already sharing eternal life with her Son. In today's Gospel passage both the unborn John the Baptist and his mother, Elizabeth, rejoice when Mary arrives. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit recognises that Mary is blessed because she believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. Mary responds with the great song of praise we call the Magnificat in which she praises God for doing great things for her including being on the side of the poor, the oppressed, the scorned, and opposed to leaders who brutalise their people. Praying the Magnificat places upon us the responsibility of working for justice, for a fairer distribution of the world's resources and helping to bring about a transformation in the lives of people in the here and now.

The Assumption tells us that Mary shares eternal life with her Son, something we all hope to do in the future, when heaven and earth will unite for each of us at a time and place none of us know.

Sunday August 23rd—21st Sunday Matthew 16:13-20



If I were to say that Jesus built his Church on Simon Johnson, known in future as Rocky, you would probably think I had lost it, but that is what Jesus said after Peter had answered his question, Who do you say I am? All four gospel were written

after the death of Jesus and when they were written Peter had achieved a position of leadership among the early Christians. He is always the first to be named in any list of the apostles, and, usually, he is their spokesperson. In the story of Jesus no other person is mentioned more than Peter and the picture we are given is real rather than ideal, as next Sunday's gospel will remind us.

In today's passage Peter is given keys to the kingdom of heaven, and the

Authority to bind or loose, we might want to say to forbid or permit. When Jesus said these words to Peter did he think that nearly 2,000 years later we would be talking of Pope Francis as the 263rd successor of St Peter. Could he have anticipated the stories of those successors, some saints, some sinners, some powerful, some weak, some holy, some far from holy? Could he have imagined that the question of authority, and how it would be exercised, would be a hugely significant factor in the break up of Christianity? Keys have two major functions, to open or to close. Does the Church, do we, open the way for a better life for those struggling in so many different ways?

Sunday August 30th—22nd Sunday Matthew 16:21-17



Suffering is part of our experience even though most of us would prefer to avoid it and to help others do the same. In today's gospel passage, which follows immediately from last Sunday, Jesus shocks the disciples by introducing the word suffering into the vocabulary of being the Christ, the Messiah. Even worse the people who would cause this suffering would be those the disciples had been brought up to respect, the elders, the chief priests and the scribes. The climax of his suffering would be death after which he would be raised on the third day.

Peter could only hear the words suffering and death and he wanted to shield Jesus from such things, he wanted Jesus to be immune from suffering. His Messiah is all glory and prestige untouched by vulnerable humanity. But he had missed the point, evidently so badly that Jesus who had so recently called him the Rock, now called him Satan, the tempter, the one who would try to lead Jesus astray. This thinking is miles away from the Messiah Jesus will become, a future of suffering he is about to enter.

But this is not all, the way of the cross which Jesus will embrace is also the way for his followers. On a poster I saw recently there were six characters each carrying a cross which had a name, heartache, depression, addiction, sickness, loneliness, unemployment, we could add to the list. The poster reminds us that Jesus is our companion when we suffer, he is our strength in our weakness. If the cross is the price to be paid for love, then carrying it is love's proof in action. For Jesus that is enough, is it enough for us?