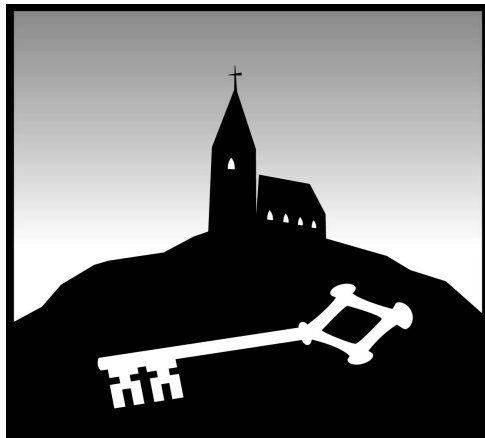




Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

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.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Philippi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

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ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 324 New Missal: 443



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

23 August 2026

First Reading Isaiah 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.

Thanks be to God.

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 Romans 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.

Thanks be to God.

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!**

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday

Charles Meneze: Tuesday

Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm

Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am

Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

E-mail:

principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,
Avondale Heights

Phone: 9337 4595

E-mail: sisaugustinian@gmail.com

Website: www.asjmoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick: Vlad; George Pinpin; Kimberly Damanik; Jan, Miecia, Zyguich; Mellisa; Janice Murray; Rossini Burns; Nancy Green; Mark; Franca; Nazzi & Teresa Demaio; Monica Marland; Zac; Emily & Grace; Kay; Susie.

Recently Deceased:

Pietro Torcasio; Leonardo Martelli; Giuseppe Marino; Paulo Raimondo; Peter Falzon; Joseph Borg; Giovanna Borg; Giuse (Joseph); Lolita Couacaud; Vincenza La Spina; Robert Barnes; Anna Grimaldi; Giuseppa Morda; Sandra Sammut; Vincenzo Vigliante; Lynette Cassar; Caterina Riotto.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Pietro Callea (1st); Antonina Trifiletti (1st); Paolo & Sebastiana Italia; Carmela Nave; Celestino Francisco Fernandes; Ellen Sepala; Annunziata Prochilo; Loreta Bugeja; Dominic Cumbo; Bernarda & Francis Grima; Teresa, Emmanuel, Tonina, Phillip Sammut; Emmanuel & Nazarena Farrugia; Adam Hood; Rita & Carmelo De Bono; Joseph Consiglia.

Parish Support Programme:

Pays Wages, Electricity, Cleaning, Insurance,
Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$2,129
Loose: \$1,269

Presbytery: Supports Parish Priest,
Retired Priests & Cathedral. \$1,485

Archbishop's Campaign: \$1,591



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

We congratulate and pray for:
Teresa Hoang; Chloe Huynh;
Rose Azarnikow; Teo Muzaferovic.



**Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults**

CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND

We congratulate and fully welcome
Rowena Laroza Melegrito
into our Catholic Christian Family
as she receives the sacraments of
Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.



Mass of Thanksgiving for

Fr Matthew Pinson SJ

Everyone is cordially invited to attend
11am English & Vietnamese Sung Mass
this Sunday at St Martin de Porres Church
followed by refreshments provided by the
Vietnamese Marriage and Family
Enrichment Community.

There will be a special collection for
Fr Pinson after communion.
(9.30am & 11am)

**The Parish of St Martin's sends our
Heartfelt congratulations on your priestly
ordination. May God bless you abundantly
as you begin your sacred ministry, and may
He grant you wisdom, strength, and grace
in your service to His people.**



Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating, or you can use the campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards.



In Your Corner

Since 2000, Joseph's Corner has offered free and low-cost counselling and support to individuals and families affected by a loved one's addiction.

We provide a safe, understanding space to share, heal, and rebuild hope...Together.
We are easily accessible and just a phone call away... (03) 9315 2680
Email: contact@josephscorner.org.au
<https://josephscorner.org.au/>



Queenship of Mary

22nd August

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To you do we cry, poor banished
children of Eve.

To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of
tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate, your
eyes of mercy towards us, and after this
our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

Oclement, Oloving, Osweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Amen



CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

First Eucharist Children

Our parish prays for the children of
St Martin's school preparing to receive
the sacrament this month as well as
RE class students Derrick, Allegra & Aston.



Christian Meditation 2026

Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus

All welcome: Monday 10 - 11am
Parent's Room in the Church

Term 3: Aug 24; Sep 7.



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays: 2.30pm Rosary
3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

followed by Stations of the Cross, 4pm finish.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make
yourself known to us by completing the New
Parishioners Form in Documents and Forms
under Recommended Links on our website
and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.