

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A (Mt 16: 13-20)

22nd & 23rd of August 2026

Dear friends,

Today, Jesus looks at our parish community and asks the ultimate question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter famously steps forward and answers, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Because of this faith, Jesus declares that Peter is the rock upon which He will build His Church.

This brings to mind a story about an old stone bridge that stood in a small village for centuries. It stood against massive floods, heavy trucks, and strong storms. A curious visitor asked the village mason how the bridge stayed so strong without any modern cement. The mason smiled, pointed to the center of the arch, and said, "Look at that top stone. That is the keystone. Every other stone lean on it, and its weight locks all the others perfectly into place. Alone, the stones would fall. But leaning together on the keystone, they form an unbreakable wall."

As a parish family, we are like those stones in the bridge. None of us is perfect, and none of us can carry the weight of life entirely alone. If we try to stand by our own strength, we will fall. But Jesus is our keystone, and our shared faith in Him binds us together.

When Jesus builds His Church on the rock of Peter's faith, He isn't just talking about a building in Rome. He is talking about this dynamic community here today. We are called to be a living sanctuary where we support, pray for, and lean on one another.

When we face a difficult week, a sickness, or financial stress, you do not face it alone. You face it fixed to the rock of Christ, surrounded by a parish family that holds you up.

Let us renew our faith today. Let us declare together that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour, and let us commit to building up our parish community on that rock-solid foundation of love.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, You are the Christ, the foundation of our lives. Bless our parish family. Help us to lean on You and support one another, so that we may grow together as a living temple of Your peace. Amen.