

Jesus struggled with many things during his ministry, but one of the common threads that runs through the parables and gospel scenes is the difficulty people had in identifying him as the Son of God, the Messiah.

He would perform miracles and preach of a Kingdom where people would be greeted with the love and mercy of God, and yet, people still questioned his authority.

Today's gospel is a teaching exercise for the disciples. It is time for Jesus to claim his true identity and he needs his followers to understand. 'Who do people say the Son of God is?' he asks. The answers that come back to him are varied. Some still identify Elijah, Jeremiah or John the Baptist as the Son of God. But Peter is confident today. He steps forward and is unequivocal in his announcement, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' This statement from Peter is interesting as he has witnessed many of Jesus' acts of healing and miracles. He is convinced that the man he has been following and watching closely, is the Son of God. The future direction of the Church will rest on Peter's shoulders and Jesus says. 'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.' Peter will go on to tell the world of the Messiah who brought healing, love and compassion to everyone he met on the way. ■

SAY

Lord, God, you call us.
 You come to us with your commandment.
 And you ask our commitment.
 We offer you our hands to serve the needs of the poor.
 We offer you our voices to speak out against injustices.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Peace Church, Munich)

'WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?'

(MATTHEW 16: 13-20)



St. Peter's Square from Rome in Vatican State

REFLECT

Standing in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City can be an awe inspiring activity. From the centre of the square, you can catch a glimpse of the papal apartments, the doors of St. Peter's Basilica, the large queues of tourists awaiting entry to see the Michelangelo's 'Pietà' and other sights of beauty that can capture the imagination. After absorbing the hustle and bustle of life around this sacred place, one can also get a true sense of the wonder of church tradition. A Church that began 2,000 years ago with the apostle Peter at its helm. A Church that has maintained the connection between our current Pope and our first Pope. A church that continues to grow and continues to pray to the Messiah, who is love.

When Peter received today's task from Jesus, one can only imagine the feelings that went through his mind. We know that Peter's journey with Jesus wasn't always straight forward. He refused to believe Jesus' prediction that death and new life will be part of Christ's path. When death does come for Jesus, Peter and his followers are nowhere to be found. And in the days following Easter Sunday, Peter and those close to him will still be in hiding. Jesus will have to revisit Peter at a later date to reiterate the importance of his role as leader of the Church and preacher of the Word.

We are reminded today that we too have a responsibility to carry on the traditions of the Church, handed on to us by the disciples. Like Peter, we need the encouragement of Jesus through prayer, to help us in our task. ■

DO

Read today's gospel story again and reflect on the challenge placed upon Peter's shoulders. How can we help in this task of building a Church that has mercy and love as its foundation?

LEARN

'Often the Church has been called the building of God. The Lord himself compared himself to the stone which the builders rejected, but which was made into the cornerstone. On this foundation, the Church is built by the apostles.....As living stones, we here on earth are built into it.' (Lumen Gentium, 6)

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore **All Saints Ballela**
Sunday 11.00am Sunday 9.45am

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur & Fri: 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

Tues & Thur: NO Mass

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 27: Ned Rooney

Sun 3: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 27: Malachy & Elizabeth Gribbin

Sun 3: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1441.92

Readers - Dromore

Sun 3: Eibhlin Scott

Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

Please come along and support **"The Big Red Afternoon Tea Party"** on Sunday 17th September in St Colmans Hall Dromore after 11am Mass – 3pm. Admission £10. Proceeds go to Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI research.

Lectio Divina

Fr Joseph Ralph invites you to come along to an Introduction to Lectio Divina, (Reading, Recognising, Responding, Resting and Reflecting on the Sunday Gospel). This will commence on Thursday 7th September 2017 for 5 consecutive weeks. There will be a choice of two sessions:- 11 30 am or 8 15pm.

Venue:- Lectio Divina Centre, 35-37 Dominic St, Newry. Contact:- Lectio Centre 028 30262178 or email lectiocentre35@gmail.com

2017 Guided Tours of Newry Cathedral

The next and final tour will be on **Wed 30th Aug** at 7pm. The tour will take approximately 90 mins. Please meet at the main door of the cathedral.

Sunday 27th Aug 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 18

£100	Marie Stewart	040
£50	Maureen Clarke	540
£30	Melissa Eadie	282
£20	Grainne Fearon	449

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 2 9 10 23

No £10 winner's

Seller's Draw: John Doyle Jackpot £860

Ballela Community Group

Pilates Classes are starting on **Thur 21st Sept** at 7.15pm in All Saints PS. Cost is £28 for 4 weeks. Tel: Patricia on 07712933854 to book your place, only a limited number of places available. Next committee meeting Mon 4th Sept at 7.30pm.

Viatores Christi

Have you Always wanted to volunteer overseas? Want to do a course on global social injustice? Learn more at the Viatores Christi (VC) - Information & Recruitment Session in BELFAST on Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 7.30pm in St John's Parochial House, Falls Road, Belfast BT12 6EN OR Tel. 01 8689986 apply@viatoreschristi.com www.viatoreschristi.com ALL WELCOME!

Catholic Grandparents Association

Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage September 10th 2017, Knock Shrine 2.30p.m. Everybody welcome to honour & thank Grandparents alive & dead for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin - Ballina School Choir - Dana sings 'Our Lady of Knock'

Massive Prayer Rally For Ireland

On Saturday 9th September at 1pm, join thousands of people gathering at Nutts Corner, Co. Antrim, to pray for the healing, restoration and transformation of our land. For more information, contact Precious Life on [028 9027 8484](tel:02890278484) or info@preciouslife.com