

FAITH @ Home



29TH JUNE 2025: SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES



Diocese of Waterford & Lismore
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Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11

Responsorial Psalm:

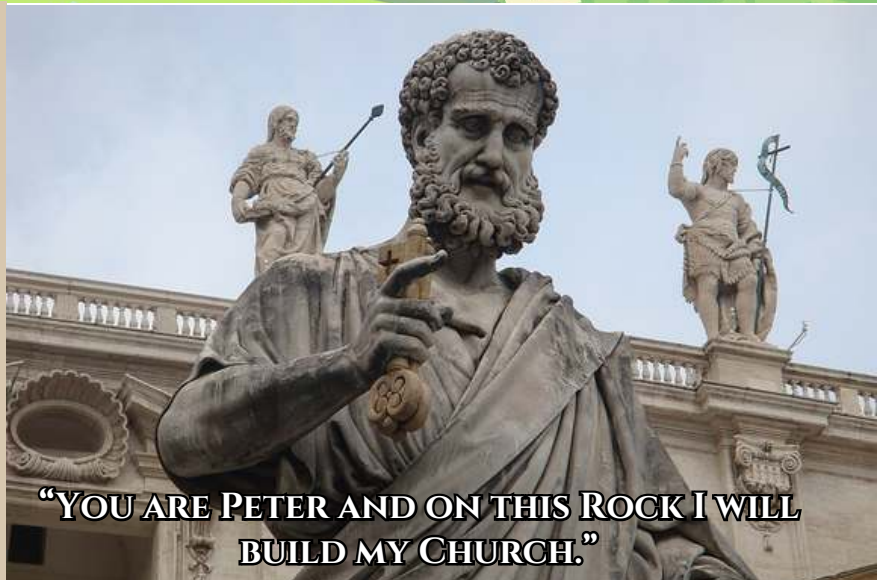
Psalm 34:2-9

Second Reading:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Gospel:

Matthew 16:13-19



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Hear



Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one?
No worries, you can find this week's readings online [HERE](#).



Pray



In the Gospel today we hear Jesus announcing the primacy of Peter.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Reread this Gospel passage slowly. "But you... who do you say I am?" Reflect on this personally - who do you say Jesus is? What titles are you most familiar with? What image of Jesus do you hold onto? Is your life consistent with your belief in Jesus?
- God revealed to Peter who Jesus is. Our own identity also is not who we say we are, or who others say we are, but who God reveals us to be. You are a beloved child of God: lean into that identity this week.

Family Prayer



This week pray especially for the Pope's intentions, for his protection and his guidance!

Talk



In today's readings we hear Peter declaring that Jesus is the Christ, and Jesus giving Peter a very special role! Peter didn't always get things right, but Jesus could see in him who he had been created to be. From the outside people saw a fisherman, but Jesus saw much more than that. We can know people on different levels too:

- How would a stranger describe you?
- How would your best friend describe you?
- How would your family describe you?
- How would Jesus describe you?
- Remember that Jesus knows us even better than we know ourselves. He knows who we really are: a beloved Child of God!

Family Challenge!



Jesus had a very special team around Him, the apostles, and He put Peter at the head of His Church. Plan an activity together as a family this week, and make sure everyone has some role in the planning and carrying out of it! Who would be the best leader? What can everyone do that shows their gifts and strengths?

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Mark places this incident at Caesarea Philippi. Luke, because of the importance he wishes to give to prayer in his Gospel, places it in the context of Jesus praying. But Matthew keeps it at Caesarea Philippi. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples for a "field report" by asking what people are saying about him. He refers to himself as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that "Son of Man" is best understood to mean "human being."

As Jesus turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe, Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ. "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for "messiah," which means "the anointed one." At the time of Jesus, the image of the "messiah" was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation.

Because Jesus has referred to himself a number of times in Matthew by Christological titles this moment is not the revelation of who Jesus is as in Mark. Instead it marks an important moment in the development of the Church. Jesus uses this occasion to bless Peter, who represents all the disciples but also has a unique role to play in the founding of the new community. Peter is blessed not because of a personal insight but because God revealed to him who Jesus is. Peter is the rock on which Jesus will build the Church.

from Loyola Press Sunday Connection

PRAY FOR THE POPE'S INTENTIONS

Did you know that when we pray for the Pope's Intentions during the Rosary, he has specific intentions he wants us to pray for? The Pope entrusts his Worldwide Prayer Network each month with prayer intentions that express his deep concerns for humanity and the mission of the Church. His monthly prayer intention is a global call to transform our prayers into "concrete actions," serving as a compass for a mission of compassion for the world. In this way, he proposes a path to mobilize us each month, through prayer and action, for a more humane, fraternal, and solidary world. You can find these intentions on <https://www.popesprayer.va/>



CARLO'S CORNER

The Rock!

There's something very consoling about St Peter: a regular kind of guy, a bit hot-headed, didn't get it right all the time and yet Jesus chose him to be the head of the Church, the first Pope, the one to lead the Church after Jesus ascended to heaven. Peter even denied Jesus three times, but Jesus gave him three opportunities to declare his love for Him too, and his commitment to lead the Church.

It's very consoling because we don't always get it right either: we can have the best of intentions and know what the right thing to do is, but fear or anxiety can hold us back. We can worry more about what others think of us than what Jesus knows to be true about us, and what we know to be true about Him.

Jesus knows what we are capable of and He always calls us to more - He doesn't just want us to be good, He wants us to be the very best versions of our selves: sainthood is the standard we need to aim for.

He also knows our weaknesses and always offers help and forgiveness when we fall and decide to get back up again.

Jesus asked his apostles a really important question in today's Gospel: "Who do you say I am?" That's a good question for all of us to reflect on. Who do I say Jesus is? Does my life reflect that belief? Who does Jesus say I am? Am I living as that person? Lots to take to prayer this week!

What defines you?

Fr Mike Schmitz



Who you say I am
(Hillsong)



To the Heights Youth Resource also available

That the world
might grow in
compassion

JUNE 2025



THE POPE VIDEO
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



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SCAN ME



THE POPE'S
INTENTIONS FOR
JUNE 2025



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