



To the Heights



Year A 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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SPOTLIGHT!

SOME OF THE GROUP FROM THE DIOCESE WHO ATTENDED THE RECENT YOUTH 2000 SUMMER FESTIVAL IN NEWBRIDGE ALONG WITH NEARLY 700 OTHERS!



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

- Do you think your faith could be described as moralistic therapeutic deism?
- Take some time throughout this week, a few minutes every day to reflect on the person of Jesus. Who has he revealed himself to be? Who do you say that He is?
- Ask Jesus each day to reveal himself to you and be open to who you meet!



PRAY



Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I'm not sure if I know exactly what that means for my life, here and now, but I'm willing to find out! Reveal yourself more and more each day to me Lord. Let me know your heart and see your power at work in me!



REFLECT

- Where was Jesus when this Gospel story took place?
- What question did Jesus ask first of His disciples?
- What answers had they heard from other people?
- Who spoke up on behalf of the disciples when Jesus asked their opinion?
- What was significant about what that disciple's response?
- What does the name Peter mean? Why was he given that name?
- Explain what Jesus meant by "the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it."
- What does "Christ" actually mean?

HEAR!

Sunday Gospel



Matthew 16:13-20

If you don't have a Bible handy, click here to access Sunday Mass Readings!



image: William Hole

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

FOR EVANGELIZATION IN THE CITY

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



TUNE!

Jesus Messiah
Chris Tomlin



iPray is an application that will help you to pray with the Gospel of each day. It provides the Gospel of the day and commentary on it. Check out the free pdf booklet on the Gospels for 2026 on their website: <https://ipraywiththegospel.org/>



GAMECHANGERS!



28th August

ST AUGUSTINE

"Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee!"



The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints and heroes, or as we like to call them, Game Changers! Check them out on our web page!

FR MIKE SCHMITZ

WATCH!



www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry



[AscendWaterfordLismoreYM](https://www.facebook.com/AscendWaterfordLismoreYM)



[ascendwaterfordlismore.ym](https://www.instagram.com/ascendwaterfordlismore.ym)



[Ascend Youth Ministry](https://www.youtube.com/AscendYouthMinistry)

"And you. Who do you say that I am?"

**HIS
WORD &
MY LIFE**

MATTHEW 16:13-20



PUZZLE

FIND THE WORDS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW

bound
build
Caerea Philippi
Christ
Church
disciples
Elijah
heaven
Jeremiah
Jesus
John the Baptist
keys
kingdom
loose
Peter
prophet
question
Simon
Son of God
underworld

U	J	C	Q	R	B	W	T	R	P	T	K	V	B	H	B	D
M	D	N	A	Q	H	E	M	V	L	T	M	O	O	U	G	O
V	M	B	L	E	H	L	Q	K	E	J	S	P	R	X	F	G
B	G	U	J	P	A	R	A	S	B	G	X	I	S	L	Y	F
S	I	M	O	N	X	R	E	P	N	N	S	Y	R	E	H	O
V	V	R	Z	S	P	A	E	R	C	R	E	Y	C	H	I	N
K	P	B	U	T	M	T	U	A	F	K	A	R	H	E	C	O
S	H	S	H	E	A	V	E	N	P	L	M	H	U	X	N	S
V	E	Q	H	J	P	C	Q	F	M	H	T	D	R	G	Q	D
J	J	U	A	A	K	E	B	G	Y	O	I	P	C	J	B	N
P	C	E	I	V	J	S	T	E	T	S	D	L	H	U	M	U
U	Z	S	M	L	L	I	X	E	C	W	C	G	I	D	W	O
P	E	T	E	E	K	U	L	I	R	C	I	L	N	P	L	B
P	J	I	R	U	V	O	P	E	Q	C	D	M	H	I	P	D
Y	S	O	E	Q	D	L	R	O	W	R	E	D	N	U	K	I
C	S	N	J	D	E	C	O	F	T	Z	N	E	S	O	O	L
B	C	V	T	S	I	T	P	A	B	E	H	T	N	H	O	J

It's never nice when people make assumptions about us; it's annoying when people presume to know how we would speak and react, especially when they haven't taken the trouble to get to know us. How often do we do that to others though? How often do we even do that to Jesus?

Who is Jesus? Who do I say that He is? More importantly, who has He revealed Himself to be?

If we reduce Jesus to "a nice guy" or "a good teacher" we miss the point. Jesus didn't come to reveal himself as "nice". He said and did a lot of challenging things - don't forget He called the pharisees white-washed tombs and drove the market sellers out of the temple for disrespecting God's house! He did teach, a lot in fact, but how aware are we of His actual teachings - or do we choose a more convenient "Jesus-light" version based on what we like and dislike, that keeps us cosily in our comfort zone and conveniently agrees with all our lifestyle choices?

Like in today's Gospel, we ultimately have to make a choice too: who do we believe Jesus is, and how will we have to live our lives according to that belief? The good news? He's worth every effort and sacrifice - anything we lose because of the demands of truly being a Christian are far outweighed by His generosity and blessings - and the promise of eternal life more importantly!

Reflect on the scripture quote and allow thoughts and images that come to you to form part of your doodle prayer: it could be people or situations that need prayer or even areas you might need to change in. Certain words or phrases might stand out for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart as you pray and doodle!

DOODLE PRAYER

"And you. Who do you say that I am?"



CLICK HERE FOR SOME RELAXING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
TOP WORSHIP SONGS OF ALL TIME! - INSTRUMENTAL WORSHIP GUITAR | JON SNODGRASS



RESPOND!



What do you think God could be saying to you in this Gospel? What speaks to your heart? Maybe it raises questions, maybe it's a little uncomfortable, maybe it offers hope... what matters is that we are open to hearing God speak to us individually.



**ICEBREAKER
SUGGESTION:
"TWO TRUTHS
AND A LIE!"**



=?

THE REAL JESUS

Matthew 16:13-20



IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE JESUS IN 5 SENTENCES WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ABOUT HIM?

**WATCH FR MIKE SCHMITZ' VIDEO: "WHICH JESUS IS THE REAL JESUS?"
AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW**



- What was the issue with the belief the woman at the conference had about Jesus?

- How did the Pastor make his point to her about her beliefs?

- What is the consequence of this kind of belief system?

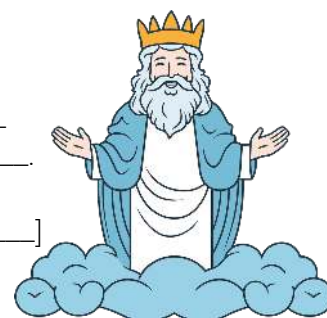
I make God in my image and likeness: he loves what I love and he hates what I hate.

I am made in God's image and likeness: I must learn to love what he loves and hate what he hates.

- In the book "Soul Searching" by Christian Smith, the team of sociologists and psychologists who surveyed adolescents across America discovered something interesting. Regardless of what religious faith they had been brought up with, the vast majority of US adolescents professed what the team termed **M** _____ **T** _____ **D** _____.

- What are some of the basic tenets of this faith that Fr Mike lists?

- God is _____ and He wants us to be _____.
- God doesn't really have to be _____ unless you need him to _____.
- Good people _____ when they die.
[We're all good people unless you're _____]



The research showed the majority of adolescents had the same version of God regardless of what they professed to believe.

- Fr Mike explains that this is why we have a whole generation of people professing faith in Jesus without knowing _____
- The producers of "Bible in a Year" podcast wanted to counteract this by bringing the biblical worldview back into knowing who Jesus is. Some listeners had their faith strengthened by this. Why did some people struggle with the podcast?

- What two choices were people faced with as a response to this Jesus revealed in Scripture?

1

2

The Real Jesus



- What do the “Nones” of the current generation describe themselves as not having?

- Fr Mike argues that these “nones” only differ from their parents’ and grandparents’ generation’s faith in one way: what is that?

- What does Fr Mike suggest is the next step for Christianity in response to this?



- RECLAIM _____
- RETELL _____
- “PRESS PLAY” and _____



READ: JOHN 6:60-69



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Who is Jesus? Who do I say that He is? More importantly, who has He revealed Himself to be? If we reduce Jesus to “a nice guy” or “a good teacher” we miss the point. Jesus didn't come to reveal himself as “nice”. He said and did a lot of challenging things - don't forget He called the pharisees white-washed tombs and drove the market sellers out of the temple for disrespecting God's house! He did teach, a lot in fact, but how aware are we of His actual teachings - or do we choose a more convenient “Jesus-light” version based on what we like and dislike, that keeps us cosily in our comfort zone and conveniently agrees with all our lifestyle choices?

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MISSION:

WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU THINK YOUR FAITH COULD BE DESCRIBED AS MORALISTIC THERAPEUTIC DEISM? TAKE SOME TIME THROUGHOUT THIS WEEK, A FEW MINUTES EVERY DAY TO REFLECT ON THE PERSON OF JESUS. WHO HAS HE REVEALED HIMSELF TO BE? WHO DO YOU SAY THAT HE IS? ASK JESUS EACH DAY TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO YOU AND BE OPEN TO WHO YOU MEET! PRESS PLAY AND LISTEN!



PRAYER TIME:

Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I'm not sure if I know exactly what that means for my life, here and now, but I'm willing to find out! Reveal yourself more and more each day to me Lord. Let me know your heart and see your power at work in me!

CHECK OUT "The Bible in a Year" Podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz Ascension Press



For more on Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (or being spiritual but not religious) check out Dr Andrew Swafford's article on Ascension Press)

CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON WHO JESUS TRULY IS



- Chris Tomlin: Jesus
- Mark Schultz: I Am
- Hillsong: King of Kings
- Paul Baloche: Behold Him



- Chris Tomlin: Jesus Messiah
- The Vigil Project - Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All
- Aaron Shust: My Savior My God
- Phil Wickham: Living Hope



The Bible in 10 Minutes (feat. Fr. Mike Schmitz) [Ascension Presents]





The Person of Jesus

Bring together what has been said about Jesus in the Gospels by writing relevant words / drawing images in the space below. You may decide to choose one Gospel or a mixture of the four.

What people in the Gospel reveal about Jesus through their words and actions

What Jesus reveals about Himself through His words and actions



Your own impression of Jesus from the Gospels