



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A Secondary

“Who Is Jesus?”

WE GATHER

God of Names Above All Names,
You named us as Your own long before we were born.
As we listen to Your Word,
help us to see that we are all children of God
no matter our differences,
as we work to build Your kingdom on earth
as it is in heaven.
We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

WE LISTEN

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (16:13-20)

Who Is Jesus?

When Jesus and his disciples were near the town of Caesarea Philippi, he asked them, “What do people say about the Son of Man?”

The disciples answered, “Some people say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet.”

Then Jesus asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter spoke up, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus told him:

Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! You didn’t discover this on your own. It was shown to you by my Father in heaven. So, I will call you Peter, which means “a rock.” On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will not have any power over it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth. But he will not allow anything that you don’t allow.

Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



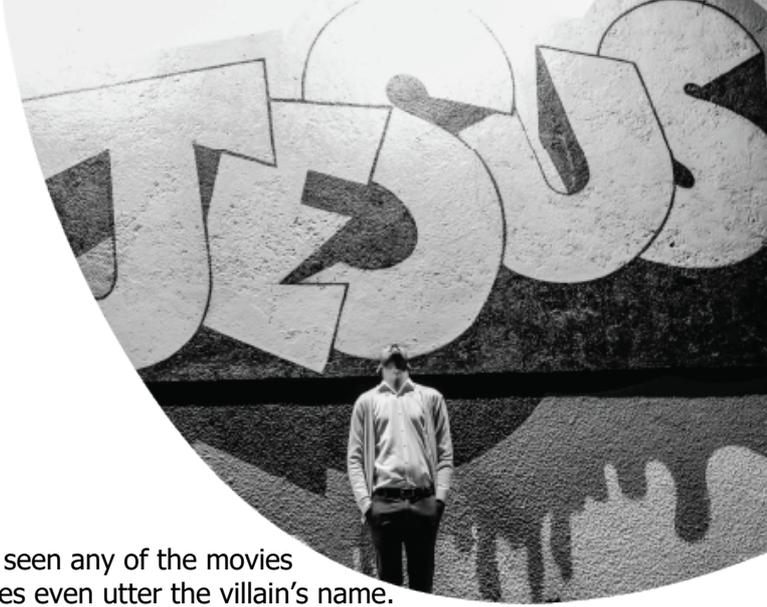
For courage,
to show the world
how important Jesus is to us.
Lord, hear us.

For hope,
even when some days
feel a bit harder than others.
Lord, hear us.

For faith,
that even if we can’t see Jesus,
we know He is walking beside us.
Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...
Lord, hear us.

Living FAITH



WE REFLECT

Names are powerful. If you've read the Harry Potter books or seen any of the movies you would know that names are so important that no one dares even utter the villain's name. Everyone is so afraid that saying it out loud would give him power that they just call him "You-Know-Who" or "He Who Should Not Be Named" just to be safe. Names that you give to people mean **a lot** because they represent who that person is to you. For example: Mum, Dad, Grandma, Poppy, best friend and team-mate.

Jesus knew this too. That's why it was so important to Jesus to know what names the disciples would give him, as that would tell Jesus just **who** He was to them. Would they just call Him teacher? Friend? Leader? Or something greater? Turns out they named Jesus something much, **much** greater. They named Him "Messiah, the Son of the living God". Now **that** is a name! Once He heard that name, Jesus knew that the disciples understood exactly who He was, not just an ordinary man but the Son of God.

Jesus wants to know what you call Him too. He wants to know exactly who He is to **you**. Close your eyes and think of a minute... who do **you** say Jesus is?

WE ARE SENT FORTH

Jesus, our Friends Above All Friends,
We give thanks for all the ways You support us, love us, and guide us.
Help us to know Your voice,
as we listen to the Good News and proclaim it for others.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Son of the Living God.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***"What really matters is that we are loved by
Christ and that we love Him in return."***

- Saint John Paul II

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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version

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