

Living FAITH

*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 Primary

“Who Is Jesus?”

WE GATHER

God of Names Above All Names;
As we live Your Word,
help us to be inspiring people of faith,
living every day in hope and love.
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 that you give people mean a lot. Sometimes people use names to make fun of someone they don't like very much, like how Andy and Terry's grumpy Publisher in 13-Story Treehouse is called "Mr. Big Nose". If he was a friendlier character, he would have had a much nicer name. 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 Him 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 Friend 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*

Jesus by Gift Habeshaw
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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version

