



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A Cycle II | 23 August 2026



Who Do You Say That I Am?

The question Jesus asks in today's Gospel must always be paramount in our lives - who do you say I am? What answer do I give with my words and what answer do I give with the way I live? Jesus revealed himself in the Gospels as one whose focus is on the kingdom of God. As his follower am I also focused on the values of the kingdom - love, justice, forgiveness, mercy, compassion? Is that what my life is about? Am I living as a follower of a God of love whose whole life was directed towards sharing this love with everyone he encountered? Does everyone who sees me, see also the God who revealed himself in Jesus? Am I another Jesus to those I meet? Do they look at me and see Jesus? In the end, my answer to Jesus' question is reflected more in the life I live than in the words I utter.

God's Word Sr Frances Hayes PVBM

Indestructible

When Christ at a symbolic moment was establishing his great society, he chose for its corner-stone neither the brilliant Paul nor the mystic John, but a shuffler, a snob, a coward - in a word, a man. And upon this rock he has built his Church, and the gates of hell have not prevailed against it. All the empires and the kingdoms have failed, because of this inherent and continual weakness, that they were founded by strong men and upon strong men. But this one thing, the historic Christian Church, was founded on a weak man, and for that reason it is indestructible. For no chain is stronger than its weakest link.

Heretics G K Chesterton (*Word on Fire Bible*)

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Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

The Chair

"I tell you," Jesus says, "you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church...". On Peter he builds the Church, and to him he gives the command to feed the sheep [*John 21:17*], and although he assigns a like power to all the Apostles, yet he founded a single chair [cathedra], and he established by his own authority a source and an intrinsic reason for that unity. Indeed, the others were also what Peter was i.e., Apostles, but a primacy is given to Peter, whereby it is made clear that there is but one Church and one chair. So too, all the Apostles are shepherds, and the flock is shown to be one, fed by all the Apostles in single-minded accord. If someone does not hold fast to this unity of Peter, can he imagine that he still holds the faith? If he should desert the chair of Peter upon whom the Church was built, can he still be confident that he is in the Church?

Treatises St Cyprian of Cathage (Word on Fire Bible)

Who do People Say that the Son of Man is?

We can easily imagine that Jesus, like any celebrity, had excited a buzz of interest and that there must have been many opinions and interpretations bandied about of him. But they were wrong. Having heard the results of this popular opinion survey, Jesus turned to his inner circle, the Twelve, and asked, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter alone spoke: "You are the Messiah...", but then he added that startling phrase, "Son of the living God." Somehow, even at this relatively early stage in Jesus' ministry, Peter intuited that Jesus was much more than a prophet or rabbi or seer, however significant. He knew that there was something qualitatively different about his Master.

Jesus responded to this confession of Peter with some of the most extraordinary language in the New Testament: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." Neither the crowds nor the aristocratic circle around Jesus knew who he was - only Peter knew. And this knowledge did not come from Peter's intelligence or from an extraordinary education or from his skill at assessing popular opinion. It came as a gift from God, a special charism of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift, given only to the head of the Twelve, Jesus called Simon by a new name: in Aramaic *Cephas* (rock or rocky), rendered in Greek as *Petros* and in English as Peter. On the foundation of this rock, Jesus declared that he would build his *ekklesia*, his Church. And Jesus insists that this society, grounded in Peter's confession, would constitute an army so powerful that not even the fortified capital of the dark kingdom itself could withstand it. How often we construe this saying of Jesus in precisely the opposite direction, as though the Church is guaranteed safety against the onslaughts of hell. In fact, Jesus is suggesting a much more aggressive image: his Church will lay successful siege upon the kingdom of evil, knocking down its gate and breaching its walls. And notice how Jesus uses the future tense - "I will build my Church." Therefore he cannot be speaking simply of Peter personally but of all those who would participate in his charism throughout the centuries. The integrity of this *ekklesia* will be guaranteed up and down the centuries - not through appeal to popular opinion (as instructive as that might be), nor through the ministrations of an institutional or theological elite (as necessary as those might be), but rather through the pope's charismatic knowledge of who Jesus is.

The Word on Fire Bible Bishop Robert Barron

Masses: Saturday Vigil 5pm | Sunday 8am & 9:30am | Reynolds Court 11am | Maronite Mass 5pm

Weekday Masses: Monday Communion Service 9am | Tuesday - Thursday 9am | Friday 11:45am
Saturday 9am | Reynolds Court Wednesday 10am

Reconciliations: Saturdays 9:30am - 10am | 4pm - 4:30pm **Liturgy of the Hours:** Saturday 8:40am

Rosary: Monday-Thursday 8:35am | Friday 11:20am | Saturday 9:30am

Holy Souls Crusade Prayer Group: Tuesday 9:30am **Cenacle Prayer Group:** Wednesday 9:30am

Christian Meditation Group: Friday 10:30am - 11:30am Reynolds Room



A Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love

Family Mass

A great crowd from the Family Mass and Presentation of Confirmation Candidates came over to the Parish Centre afterwards for some pizza and goodies. It is good to celebrate community and enjoy each others' company. We very much look forward to the next Family Mass get-together on 31 October.



Faith in Action – Altar Servers (Jnr & Snr)

Serve at the altar! Are you interested in becoming a Junior Altar Server (ages 9-12) or a Senior Altar Server (teens and adults) to help out during Sunday Masses? It's a fantastic opportunity to deepen your faith, engage actively in the Liturgy, and serve your parish community. Training will be provided, but please note that you must have received all the Sacraments of Initiation to be eligible. If this sounds like something you'd like to be involved in, please complete one of the 'Faith in Action' forms available at the Church entrances or reach out to the parish office.



Chapel of the Holy Spirit 25th Anniversary

All parishioners are invited to the Commemoration celebrations at Reynolds Court Chapel of the Holy Spirit for its 25th Anniversary of opening on 16 September. Mass will be celebrated at 10am followed by Morning Tea. The Chapel is located at Reynolds Court Residential Aged Care and Retirement Village at 7 Bias Avenue Bateau Bay.

(Regular Masses are held each Sunday at 11am and Wednesdays at 10am, which all are welcome to attend.)



Ministry Volunteers Refresher Date Claimer

All Volunteers and those interested in becoming Readers or Servers at Mass are asked to attend Refresher Training with Fr Rosan on Friday 23 October from 5:30-7pm. This early date claimer ensures ample time to arrange calendars and be available to attend. We thank you for your continued contributions to our parish ministry. For any enquiries please call the office on 4332 2216.



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isaiah 22:19-23 | Romans 11:33-36 | Matthew 16:13-20

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.



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Please Note

Welcome!

This weekend we have the Reception of the Sullivan and Keith Families whose children will be Baptised in the near future.

Feast Days this Week

St Bartholomew, Apostle, 24 August; St Monica 27 August; St Augustine 28 August; The Passion of St John the Baptist 29 August.

Nursing Home Communion Service

A Communion Service will be celebrated for residents at Bupa Bateau Bay on Tuesday at 10am.

Bishop David Walker's 30th Episcopal Anniversary

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David at Our Lady of Dolours Chatwood on Thursday 3 September at 7pm. Refreshments to follow. All welcome!

Ethical Dimensions of AI in Practice

A *Magnifica Humanitas* formation session exploring a range of considerations on both the supply chain side and the consumer side of AI. Factors considered include the impact to human flourishing and interaction, welfare of young people and work, ecological and economic impacts. Thursday 27 August 6pm in the Ambrose Centre (behind the Church). Register via the QR code on posters or enquiries to: mission@bbcatholic.org.au

Seasons for Growth Seminar: Understanding Change, Loss and Grief Seminar

This free seminar is designed for individuals and groups seeking to deepen their understanding of the experiences of change, loss and grief, while exploring the ways we can compassionately support ourselves and others through times of transition and sorrow. Saturday 12 September 10am in the Ambrose Centre (behind the Church). Registration: mission@bbcatholic.org.au

Keep Us in Your Prayers

Recently Deceased: Peter Maher, Adele Fredewell, Leslie Wallace, Mario Cosenza, Fr Eugene Stockton, Floremil Palines.

Anniversaries: John Bowditch (1st), Michael Hart, Sidney Jayesuria, Bernadette O'Neill, Maria Grabham, Pilar McCudden.

Remembrances: Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Richard Falzon, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, John Giutronich, Mario Cauchi, Nona Redman, Fr Michael Kelly, Delma Clarke, Bob O'Sullivan, Bill Davis, Bernie O'Sullivan, Ambrosio Escala Jnr, Merry Berdin, Norma Apalla and all the Holy Souls.

Families: Borg, Marmara, Xeureb, Pace.

Sick: Steve Kay, John Cox, Caroline Dadd, Michael Fenton, Sharron Moyce, Michael & Julie Trussell, Linda Ho, Glenn Bartholomew, Scott Studdon, Keith Snell, Angela & Tony Fowler, Jean Jackson, Fr Harry Kennedy, Lynette Falken, Fr Bob Brogan, Walter Knoke, Anne Knoke, Pat McCudden, Linda Read, Rod Slater, Pam Elliott, Patrick Yeo, Stjepan Tuka, John McClement, Emma Horton, Kelly Will.

Our Lady of the Rosary



Sacred Gifts

Welcome!

We open on Saturdays before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass and Sundays before and after the 9:30am Mass.

Also weekdays by appointment.

You'll find us in the foyer of the Church.

4332 2216