

## SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 16:13-20

1. This marks a turning point in the life of Jesus, and of the disciples. It is the first time that his disciples recognise him as the Messiah. Recall turning points in your own life when you came to some deeper understanding of who Jesus is.
  2. 'Who do you say that I am?' This is possibly the most important question that Jesus puts to us. In your heart of hearts, how do you answer this question?
  3. Jesus praises Peter for his faith and comments that this was not his own doing but a gift of God. Perhaps there have been times when you have been more than usually conscious that faith is a gift. Be thankful for the gift you have received.
  4. These are troubled times for the Church and the promise of Jesus that 'the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it' are an encouragement. What helps you to draw strength from this promise of Jesus? What signs of hope do you see in the Church today?
- John Byrne osaEmail jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com*

### MUSINGS: Who am I for you?

What does this story tell us? Jesus wanted a response to his question who am I for you? He had spent time with people and some have accepted him. Peter's was the remark of faith. Faith is in the person of Jesus before any creed. Our faith is based on Jesus not on the Church. It is knowing Jesus from the inside – knowing who he really is with the knowledge of the heart.

Is our faith just like a birthmark or a way of life and love? For some it is just a birthmark. A label for birth, marriage and death. It has become more like this in Ireland and the Church in many ways allows this.

Who is Christ for me? The question that will ground our faith. We are here for partnership with the Lord in bringing on the reign of God.

What would that look like? That people who care for each other and particularly for the old, the child, the weaker, the unborn and the refugee. The Church is the

community where the weakest are welcomed. The son of the living God is the one who heals, cures, wants us, and is the human face of God. We are that too – he has no body now on earth but ours!

*Donal Neary SJ*

### THE DEEP END: Who do you say I am?

Peter gets it right in today's Gospel and Jesus calls him 'blessed'. That is, he is a person who brings a great gift and who brings that gift to others. Already in the community that Matthew is writing for, the community of Jesus' followers are gathering as 'church'. Peter is seen as Jesus' successor and future leader for that community.

Jesus is a very different Messiah to the one the Jews expected. It is understandable that he would order the disciples to keep quiet. The people of his time wanted a leader who would lead them in a military revolt against the Romans, who would be a great king. Jesus' mission involves a very different focus, reaching out to the outcast, those on the margins, a radical love. His actions will speak for who he is. It is for each of us to make up our own minds as to who Jesus is. Peter is quite clear and sincere in his declaration, however, as we will see later, Peter did not understand fully what the journey of Jesus would entail. Peter commits himself but it is a reminder that we must always leave room for growth in the understanding of our commitments.

'The joy of Jesus bursts out ... and he speaks his dream of an impregnable community of faith held together by the power of God rather than by external organisation, a community of commitment and freedom.'

*W. Yeomans*

A question to focus on today might be: 'Who do YOU say that Jesus is?' What is Jesus for you, today, in your life at this precise moment?

*Jane Melletmelletj@gmail.com*

**CHANGES TO MASS TIMES:** There will be no 17:45 evening mass on weekdays until the autumn. No Adoration on Mondays and Fridays.

**THE MILFORD HOSPICE ANNUAL HARVEST** celebrates its 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary this Sunday **August 27<sup>th</sup>** at the University of Limerick. There will be a full programme of activities and entertainment. Donations such as plants, bottles for the bottle stall and homemade cakes along with new items for the Wheel of Fortune will be accepted on the day only. All other goods such as toys, fancy good are being accepted at the Hospice from August 14<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are also needed to help out with stalls. Further information from 061 485859.

### NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

The National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> 2017. Coach departs from the Salesian Convent at 8.30am. Those who wish to travel should phone 085 7491270 a few weeks in advance.

**THE PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** will meet in our Parish Centre with those who have been bereaved, to offer support in a friendly environment with tea, coffee and refreshments on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September, after 10.00am Mass. All are welcome.

**ST VINCENT de PAUL** will hold their monthly collection on Saturday/Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> September at all masses.

### NEW SCHOOL TERM: Parish Schools reopen as follows:

#### Ard Scoil Rís:

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August: 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August: 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Transition Year  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August: 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, 5<sup>th</sup> Year  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August: 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

#### Villiers School:

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>: ALL Students

#### JFK School:

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August

#### Salesian Primary School:

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August

### Prayer to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *The Catholic Catalogue.com*

### Parish Website

[www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie](http://www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie)

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at *Church Sacristy*  
Tel: 325288

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays  
09:00-12.30 Sunday

### Mass Times: Weekends

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

### Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00

Saturday 09:45

Baptisms: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15



### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	Neil Murphy (A) Gerard Goodwin (A) Bill Norton (A) Anne & Jack Marnell (A) Nancy McElligott (A)
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 11:30	Michael Brosnan (A) Jean Guerin (A) John Langford (A)
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	-
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Purgatorial
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	-
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00	-
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00	Paddy Byrne (A)
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45 18:00	- -
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 11:30	Theresa Lynch (A) Ned & Terry Wall (A) Maureen O'Connor (1 <sup>st</sup> A) Bridie Fitzgibbon (M/Mind) Pat Henry (A)

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