

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



This Sunday's gospel reading is centred on identity: the identity of Jesus and the identity of Peter. In both cases there is a "revelation". Amidst all the attempts to say who Jesus is (that he is John the Baptist

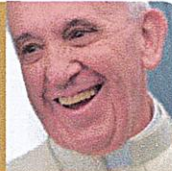
or Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets) Peter gets it right: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". However, "flesh and blood" did not reveal this to him (in other words, his own human intelligence). It was revealed to him by the "Father who is in heaven". Jesus follows this up by revealing to Peter who he is: not the fisher of fish in the lake of Galilee but the "rock" on which the Church is built. In a similar way Paul's new identity as the preacher of the gospel to the gentiles was revealed to him.

If we look at all the saints throughout the history of the Church, we find the same dynamic: their identity is not chosen but revealed. Think of Francis of Assisi who was destined to take over his

rich father's business as a cloth merchant and receives the call to embrace a life of poverty and humility. Or Mother Teresa happy in her role as a Loreto nun teaching children, who receives a second call to leave everything and go out on the streets of Calcutta to serve the poorest of the poor. The saints are our models but they are models because they are there to inspire us to follow their example. We are all called to turn to our Creator and ask the question: "Who do You say I am?". We will surely be surprised by the answer.



### POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



#### AN ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN PRAYER

O God, Trinity of love,  
from the profound communion of your divine life,  
pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.  
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,  
in his family of Nazareth,  
and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,  
discovering Christ in each human being,  
recognizing him crucified  
in the sufferings of the abandoned  
and forgotten of our world,  
and risen in each brother or sister  
who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,  
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,  
so that we may discover anew  
that all are important and all are necessary,  
different faces of the one humanity  
that God so loves. Amen.

*Given in Assisi, at the tomb of Saint Francis, on 3 October, Vigil of the Feast of the Saint, in the year 2020, the eighth of my Pontificate.*

### From a sermon by St. Augustine

Before his passion the Lord Jesus, as you know, chose those disciples of his whom he called apostles. Among these it was only Peter who almost everywhere was given the privilege of representing the whole Church. It was in the person of the whole Church, which he alone represented, that he was privileged to hear, To you will I give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. After all, it is not just one man that received these keys, but the Church in its unity. So this is the reason for Peter's acknowledged pre-eminence, that he stood for the Church's universality and unity, when he was told, To you I am entrusting, what has in fact been entrusted to all. To show you that it is the Church which has received the keys of the kingdom of heaven, listen to what the Lord says in another place to all his apostles: Receive the Holy Spirit; and immediately afterwards, Whose sins you forgive, they will be forgiven them; whose sins you retain, they will be retained.



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

These are the ones who, living in the flesh,  
planted the Church with their blood;  
they drank the chalice of the Lord  
and became the friends of God.

**COLLECT**

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles  
Peter and Paul  
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,  
grant, we pray, that your Church  
may in all things follow the teaching  
of those through whom she received  
the beginnings of right religion.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts 12:1-11

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R.5

**R. From all my terrors the LORD set me free.**

I will bless the LORD at all times,  
praise of him is always in my mouth.  
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;  
the humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me;  
together let us praise his name.  
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,  
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the LORD is encamped  
around those who fear him, to rescue them.  
Taste and see that the LORD is good.  
Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

**Alleluia, alleluia.** Matthew 16:18  
**You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**  
**Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 16:13-19

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord,  
accompany the sacrificial gift  
that we present to your name for consecration,  
and may their intercession make us devoted to you  
in celebration of the sacrifice.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Mt 16:16,18

**R. Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the  
Son of the living God.  
And Jesus replied: You are Peter,  
and upon this rock I will build my Church.**

**R. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant us, O Lord,  
who have been renewed by this Sacrament,  
so to live in the Church,  
that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread  
and in the teaching of the Apostles,  
we may be one heart and one soul,  
made steadfast in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**