LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 22:19-23
I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8
(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading: Rom 11:33-36
From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 16:18
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!

GOSPEL: Mt 16:13-20
You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Memorial Acclamation:
We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

A furore broke out in a country diocese some years ago about the retreat style of priest who was taking Catholic students in their last year of high school or who were attending university away for weekend retreats. On the Friday night of the retreat this priest would tell the young people that by the end of the weekend they should make a decision about their Christian faith.

Some parents were shocked that their young people were given an ultimatum that included the possibility of rejecting their faith. The priest replied that Catholic youth have to make all sorts of decisions regarding career, lifestyle, residence, studies and relationships. Religion, he contended, often fell by the wayside, either not important enough on which to make a decision, or relegated to the personal shelf of neglect to be possibly taken down and dusted off years later for a hatching, matching or dispatching.

The priest argued that this wasn’t good enough. After 12 years of Catholic education or many years of catechetics the Church had to take the risk of calling for a personal decision for faith. Some of the young people consciously chose membership in the Church. In making such a profession of faith many reported having a deep encounter with God and an experience of their faith in Christ. Other students made decisions against belonging to the Church, which is, of course, never irrevocable.

The entire retreat process was based on the question in today’s Gospel: Who do you say that I am?

The disciples, reflecting on their experiences with Jesus, offer various possibilities, but it is Peter who says that Jesus is the revelation of God for the world. This is the great profession of faith and the basis on which the Church comes into being.

And what was true then, is true now. At some point, if we want our faith to move from being a code of law, a concept, or some excellent ideas to something we can experience, we must take the faith of the Church, which has nurtured us up to now, and make it our own. In doing so, when we encounter Christ, we contribute to the re-founding of the Church in our generation.

Just being part of the ‘Catholic crowd’ is hardly the challenge Jesus presents to the disciples in today’s Gospel. We are commissioned like the disciples to bear witness to Christ’s personal love in the workplace, with our friends and in our families.

It’s always helpful to be reminded that we might be the only face of Catholicism, or even Christianity, that another person may encounter. The way in which we bind them up or set them free might be the measure by which they judge if the Church is the face of Christ in today’s world and whether they could find a home with us.

And it all hinges on that great question which is asked of each of us today: ‘Who do you say that I am?’ How we answer this question reveals so much, including whether Christ is an idea we like, or the object of our passion.
**MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATOR**

Cathedral Parish is planning to commence the next program for adults wishing to begin their journey into full participation in the Catholic Church as part of the RCIA program. The Parish is asking for nominations into the program or advice on who the Parish may contact to enquire about interest.

Cathedral Parish is also planning to set up a Parish Family Group Program which will be aligned with the Passionist Family Group Program. The program plans activities which include all age groups with a balance of ages in each group.

This program has been very successful in other parts of Australia and facilitates families coming together in a range of activities, always within a faith setting. Families who are interested are invited to advise the Parish Office so that we can keep them informed of progress.

Leaders from Brisbane are willing to help and assist with the provision of resources.

**FATHER ROD WARD, ADMINISTRATOR - SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH**

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

**Please pray for:**

Polly Betts; Brian Keogh; John Mehedy; Susan Alexander, Rosa Maria Santos, Chase Rafael Payne, Kevin Coyne, Fr Colin Mason & Frauke Knobl.

O Almighty, everlasting God, eternal salvation of those who believe, hear our prayers on behalf of your ailing servants for whom we implore the aid of your mercy, that with health restored to them, they may offer thanksgiving to you. **Amen**

* Please be advised that the parish office requires individual and/or family permission for inclusion in the public prayer list under the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012.

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**PARISH NEWS**

**Parish Baptism:** Baptisms are now permitted with a maximum of 80 people which includes celebrant. For more info, ring the Parish office 4771 4461

**Parish Hoy:** Cancelled until further notice.

**Cathedral Parish Women’s Group:** Meeting cancelled.

**Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Reflection Program:** Deferred

**Sacred Heart Cathedral 2020 Sacramental Program:** Sacred Heart Cathedral 2020 Sacramental Program’s commencement date is deferred.

**The Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Office** is still open from Monday to Friday 9:30am to 5pm. For all enquiries, please contact 4771 4461 or email: cathedralparish@tsv.catholic.org.au.

**Cherish Life Townsville:** The next meeting for Cherish Life Townsville will be on the **31st August 2020, 7.30pm** in Aitkenvale Library.

**Baptism this Week:** The parish warmly welcomes Sophie Anne Cameron and Alistair Wilhelm Batiller Holland who will be baptised in Sacred Heart Cathedral this Sunday.

**Mass Livestream:** Sunday Mass from the Sacred Heart Cathedral will continue to be Live Streamed for the community. You can find the stream here https://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathTSV. Prayer resources and other important information can be found www.tsv.catholic.org.au/COVID-19
Alpha Online Youth Series: Join us for 8 weeks of Online Alpha. Every week we meet online to watch a video and have discussions about life, purpose and faith. During week 6 we go away on an Alpha weekend to continue Alpha, experience spirituality and deepen friendships through various activities like hiking, fishing, swimming, games night, campfire and many more activities. If you are aged between 15 and 25 years old, live in or beyond Townsville and want to explore questions about life, purpose and faith with other young people register for Alpha. Email youth@tsv.catholic.org.au to register and receive more information. Alpha starts Tuesday, 25 August 2020.

Catholic Youth Commission, Townsville Diocese: Bishop Tim is establishing a Diocesan Youth Commission and is looking for members. If you love God, care about young people, live in or beyond Townsville and enjoy working in a team to create and develop vision and strategies you may want to put in an Expression of Interest. Email youth@tsv.catholic.org.au to receive an Information Pack and register for an information session (dates: 18/08/20 or 29/08/20). For more information contact our Youth Office – 4726 3262. Closing date: Friday 4 September.

Grace Upon Grace Retreat: The House of Prayer invites you to join us from the 24th of September to 30th September on a 6 day retreat ‘Grace Upon Grace’. Live in accommodation available. For more information please contact House of Prayer 4728 9861 or houseofprayer@tsv.catholic.org.au

St Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles, but very little is known about him. Scholars believe that he was the man known as Nathanael, who was introduced to Jesus by St Philip. In the synoptic Gospels he is named Bartholomew, which means “son of Tolmai”. Some believe that he may have preached in India, where a Hebrew copy of Matthew’s Gospel was found – believed to have been left by Bartholomew. He is also believed to have preached in Armenia where he was martyred.
Prayer in this time of Crisis
Almighty and all-merciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds, in who, there is no shadow of death, save us in this time of crisis: Grant wisdom and courage to our leaders; Watch over all medical people as they tend to the sick and work for a cure; Stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation; If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open. By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear, that hope may never die and the light of Easter, the triumph of life, May shine upon us and the whole world. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead, Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

For those who care for the sick
Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick. When they diagnose, give them patience. When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection. When they work to heal, give them strength. When they comfort, give them consolation. When they are tired, give them rest. When they are discouraged, bring them your hope. May we welcome and respect them as we support one another in this time of trial.

For those seeking a cure for the virus
Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tireing work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.

Continuing restrictions:
- Social distancing and hygiene
- Tracking, tracing, rapid response
- COVID safe business plans in place

Match up each of these symbols of St Peter with its correct story

1. Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus told Peter that he would be the foundation upon which the church would be built.
2. When Jesus first met Peter and his brother Andrew, he said to them, “Follow me!” Immediately they stopped what they were doing and followed Jesus.
3. Jesus told his disciples that they would desert him. Peter told Jesus he would never desert him, but Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times.
4. Jesus said to Peter, “You are Peter; to you I will give the keys to the kingdom of heaven.”