

focus on sunday

Our Christian life will call on us at times to make a decision for or against Jesus, as for the apostles in today's gospel. We know with him we have the message of the deepest human love we are capable of.



Peter got the keys of heaven. We think that these are keys to let people into heaven. We often see pictures of Peter with a bunch of keys in his hand. Keys are given when a person is trusted – the privilege of getting the kingdom of heaven.

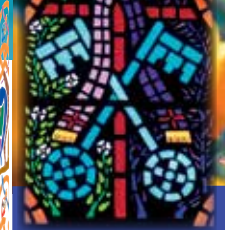
It is not just the afterlife. The kingdom of heaven is what Jesus brings on earth. He gives each of us keys to unlock that door to his kingdom. We unlock the door from the inside. Pope Francis has said when Jesus knocks at the door, he is asking to be let out from inside each of us: 'I think about the times in which Jesus knocks from within so that we will let him come out.' (Address before the Conclave 2013).

Like Peter, we have the keys to let his message out – in our words and in what we do. The love of God is given to us to be shared in service, just as the word of God is given to us to be spoken both in our human words and in our lives.

I can imagine Peter each day going inside himself to pray and think over what Jesus had done for him in his life, and opening his heart so that the love and mission he had received, would be given for the community of disciples.

May I recognise your love in my life O Lord, and share this whenever I can, in word and deed.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.

I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 137:1-3,6, 8

R. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple [R]

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul [R]

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. [R]

SECOND READING Romans 11: 33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter and on this rock
I will build my Church.
And the gates of the underworld
can never hold out against it. Alleluia!**



GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13 - 20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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

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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us;
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen



OPENING PRAYER

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place here true gladness is found. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 22: 19 - 23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open.

