

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

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 Hilkiyah.

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.

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

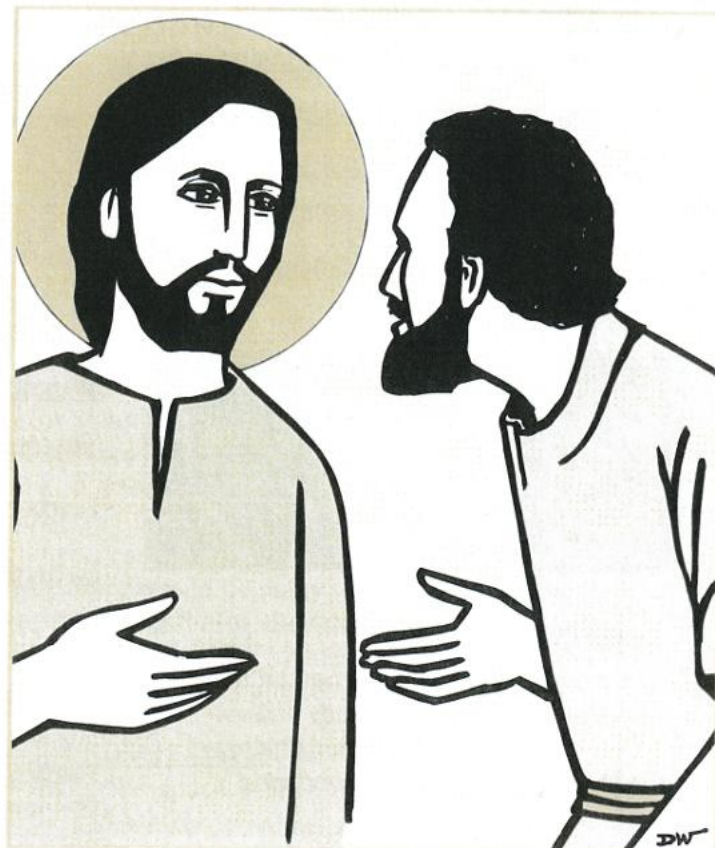
■ The word of the Lord.

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.**

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

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

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.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the
kingdom of heaven.*

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Who is Jesus? What would I want to say
to him? Today's Gospel brings us to one of
the most important questions posed by the
evangelist to the Gospel's audience – and to
us: Who is Jesus for us?

Jesus first asks the disciples about the gossip
circulating concerning him and who they
believe him to be. Their response reflects
how the disciples understand Jesus and how
they will follow him as they draw closer to
Jerusalem, the city where Jesus' ministry will
conclude in his death and resurrection. The
disciples respond to Jesus' question as to what
others say about him: He is John the Baptist,
or Elijah who will return at the end of time,
or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asks them,
'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter, speaking for the group,
acknowledges Jesus as 'the Christ', the Greek
for the Hebrew word 'Messiah', literally 'the
anointed one'. Jesus is God's emissary anointed
with the Spirit. Jesus affirms Peter's response
as divinely inspired and declares that Peter –
Petros, 'rock' – will be the foundation or 'rock-
base' for the growth of the Jesus movement.

For Matthew's audience, this is an affirmation
of the movement's authority through time and
history. It is within this graced community that
we gather today. As contemporary followers
of Jesus, we are invited to give our response
personally and communally as to Jesus'
identity: Who do you, who do we say Jesus
is? Our response will shape how we act, with
whom we engage and the kind of community
of Jesus' followers we will be.

Fr Michael Trainor

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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**"To grow in discipleship of
Jesus and go make disciples"**

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Ordinary
Time

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil – 6.00pm @ Sacred Heart

Sunday – 7.30am @ Our Lady of Good
Counsel, Chidlow

9.30am @ Sacred Heart Mundaring

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday 8.30am

Wednesday 8.00am

Thursday 8.30am

7.00pm Men's prayer group

1st & 3rd wk of the month

Friday 9.00am Whole School Mass

6.30pm Adoration, Confession

7.00pm Vigil Mass Assumption

Saturday 8.30am Assumption

9.00am Rosary & Cenacle

Reconciliation:

Friday 9.00am (Sacred Heart)

Saturday 9.00am (Sacred Heart)

1st Wednesday of the month 12-1.00pm

(Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chidlow)

Parish Cuppa:

Mundaring: 1st Weekend of the Month

Chidlow: Following each Sunday morning
Mass ALL WELCOME!

For information about Baptism or other
sacraments please visit our website,
email or phone the parish.

Weekday Mass Feasts:

Thursday St Monica, C. Holy Women p2300

Friday St Augustine, Bishop p1978

Saturday The Beheading of St John the Baptist
p1981

FIAT: Why Be Catholic Conference 2026

Join us 1-3 October at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish,
Scarborough, for the 2026 Why Be Catholic Conference.

Our headline guest is **Tim Staples**, Senior Apologist with Catholic
Answers, appearing on what may be his final Australian tour. Tim
was also a guest at our very first conference in 2015.

Early bird tickets close 1 September.

Visit www.evangelisationaustralia.com for details & registration.

PARISH ACCOUNT DETAILS:

1st Collection: Priest upkeep

'The Roman Catholic Archbishop'

BSB: 086006

A/C #: 985196641

2nd Collection: Parish upkeep

'The Roman Catholic Archbishop'

BSB: 086006

A/C #: 673418807

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Intentions for the sick

Kevin Bell

Bonnie Brown

Mary Sheehan

Andrew Azzaro

Tess Howden

Trevor Clark

Dennis Denoual

Bill Makely

Pamela Sistrunk



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NEWS, EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:

THE NATURE OF GOD?

Our exploration of the Catholic Faith continues
Sunday 1045-1130am looking at a **slightly
different track: on the nature of God's love.** Your
presence supports this mission of growing and
sharing the faith.

UPDATES ON GROWTH PROJECTS

Whatever your experience is, I always appreciate it.
However big or small, your feedback is very
important and helps shape things. Sometimes I may
not be able to implement things right away, and
there may be several other projects underway
which are taking focus, but I appreciate when
people continue to stay in touch on them and follow
up.

Both in 2024 and again in 2025, your feedback was
sought and the parish council and I have been trying
to implement many of the feedback areas to
improve and grow our parish. Many suggestions
involve multiple steps and long term work.

UPDATE ON THE SANCTUARY SPEAKERS

Since having a funeral eulogy no one could hear in
the parish: one long term project has been to
improve the capacity for the priest to be able to hear
from the speakers to better support the choir and
readers. Communication is part of the core of what
we do, so it has a **big impact when it doesn't work.**
While for the congregation it may not be noticeable,
the two sanctuary speakers which I donated,
installed and wired do make it easier to hear. It's a
pleasure to not have to strain to listen from the
sanctuary. No more need to guess whether my
microphone or the lectern microphone is on or the
battery has failed, and can focus on praying the
Mass! It also provides a better capacity for the priest
to complement the efforts of the choir.

HOSPITALITY SPACE

Feeling welcomed is an important experience in any
community and am very grateful to the many of you
who heroically make the effort to say hello
especially to visitors, who generously prepare the
kids colouring and newsletters each week, or share
a plate or cuppa.

I want to thank Christelle Tonev who since
December was every week creating a second set of
special powerpoints to
allow the Mass to be
displayed outside as a
flexible option for
parents and children.



This was working well, but needed a second
computer, parallel powerpoint clickers, and
highlighted the need to have something more
sustainable. This was an ambitious project that
stretched us to pioneer an improved and
sustainable pathway which is **now all working.**



The setup was generously overseen by Peter of
Merus Sound who also donated an amazing camera
and sourced a couple of special parts to make it all
work. It provides a wholesome foundation for a
children's Sunday program where kids and
volunteers are not completely removed from Mass.
While there would be many other steps to make it
happen, it would also allow the possibility for our
sick parishioners the chance to unite with our
community in prayer and feel connected.

WARM HOSPITALITY

To make the space a little more comfortable on
those cold winter evenings and mornings, we've
been trialling a non-intrusive, simple, safe and
effective heating setup. Especially with the
establishment of the Sunday Coffee and
Conversation on the Catholic Faith. No expensive
gas plumbing, just a BBQ gas tank and a secure,
inexpensive camper heater. Thank you to each of
you for all the prayers and practical support that
allow new opportunities like this to take shape in
our parish community.

