

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

CANBERRA INNER NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (CINCC)

PASTORED BY THE CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (SSS)

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A | 22-23 AUGUST 2026



THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

BY DON SCHWAGER

www.dailyscripture.net

At an opportune time Jesus tests his disciples with a crucial question: *Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am?* He was widely recognised in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that he was the *Christ, the Son of the living God*. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God.

Jesus plays on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek. To call someone a "rock" is one of the greatest of compliments. The ancient rabbis had a saying that when God saw Abraham, he exclaimed: "I have discovered a rock to found the world upon". Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to recognise Jesus as the Anointed One (Messiah and Christ) and the only begotten Son of God. The New Testament describes the church as a spiritual house or temple with each member joined together as living stones (see 1 Pt 2:5). Faith in Jesus Christ makes us into rocks or spiritual stones.

Jesus then confers on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build, a church that no powers would overcome because it is founded on the rock which is Christ himself. Epiphanius, a 6th century Scripture scholar who also translated many early church commentaries from Greek into Latin, explains the significance of Jesus handing down the "keys of the kingdom":

For Christ is a rock which is never disturbed or worn away. Therefore Peter gladly received his name from Christ to signify the established and unshaken faith of the church... The devil is the gateway of death who always hastens to stir up against the holy church calamities and temptations and persecutions. But the faith of the apostle, which was founded upon the rock of Christ, abides always unconquered and unshaken. And the very keys of the kingdom of the heavens have been handed down so that one whom he has bound on earth has been bound in heaven, and one whom he has set free on earth he has also set free in heaven. (INTERPRETATION OF THE GOSPELS 28)

The Lord Jesus offers us the gift of unshakeable faith, enduring hope, and unquenchable love - and the joyful boldness to proclaim him as the one true Savior who brings us the kingdom of God both now and forever. Who do you say he is to yourself and to your neighbor?

CHURCHES

ST PATRICK, BRADDON

SUN	8:00 am	Mass
	10:00 am	German Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)
TUE-FRI	12:10 pm	Rosary
	12:30 pm	Mass
FRI	11:30 am -	Adoration &
	12:30 pm	Confession

ST BRIGID, DICKSON

SUN	9:30 am	Mass
	5:00 pm	Vietnamese Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month) Maronite Mass (Last Sunday of the month)
TUE-SAT	8:40 am	Rosary
	9:00 am	Mass
WED	8:00 am -	Adoration
	11:00 am	
SAT	5:00 pm -	Adoration
	8:00 pm	
	9:30 am -	Adoration &
	10:00 am	Confession
	5:30 pm -	Confession
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Healing Service takes place after the Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

SUN	8:30 am	Mass
TUE-FRI	8:15 am -	Adoration
	9:10 am	(Confession during Adoration every Friday.)
SAT	9:15 am	Mass
	8:15 am	Novena to Our Lady of the Perpetual Help
	8:30 am	Mass
	5:15 pm -	Confession
	5:45 pm	
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Anointing of the Sick is within the Mass at 8:30 am every 1st Saturday of the month.

Recitation of the Rosary takes place after the 9:15 a.m. Mass, Tuesday to Friday.

ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

SUN	10:00 am	Mass
FRI	11:00 am -	Adoration
	11:45 am	
	11:45 am	Mass

Confession is every Friday, 11:00 am to 11:40 am. Anointing of the Sick takes place every 1st Sunday of the month at 11:15 am.

HOLY ROSARY | BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

SUN	9:30 am	Rosary
	10:00 am	Mass
	5:00 pm	Mass
TUE-FRI	5:30 pm	Mass
SAT	4:00 pm -	Confession
	4:30 pm	
FRI	5:00 pm	Vigil Mass
	6:00 pm -	Adoration
	7:00 pm	

READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Psalm 85:1-3

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.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 22:19-23

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 137(138):1-3,6,8

R: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:33-36

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Matthew 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

Matthew 16:13-20

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Psalm 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Aubrey, Ana Weta Waqabuli, Juanito Gatpandan, Eugenia Moranta, Gertrude Fletcher, Peter Evans, Barry Murphy, Margaret Sullivan, Jeong-Bok Kim, Cecily Ferguson, Estelle Smith, Sienna Moore, John Kenna, Amanda Johansson, Fr Troy Joseph Bobbin PP,

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gordon Meech, Richard Alfred (Alf) Meech, Atilio Grzic, Peter Black, Salvaña Baylin, Sr. Veronica Dunphy, John Mowbray, Denis O'Brien, Raymond Hawkes, Maria Vassallo, Carmen Abinoja, Lloyd Vibar, Late Mary Philomena Pakkianatha, Jaime J. Nery Jr. For Maria's Soul, Deceased of the Nguyen Family, Jose Luis Prates Leal, Jose Rico, Trinidad Alviz

*"Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon
them. May the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God, rest
in peace. Amen."*



SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Cindy Mason, Peter Bergin, Una Bell, Mairead Thomas, Colleen Brackett, Cecily Ferguson, Maggie McKeown,

Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin for two weeks.

Celebration Morning Tea

Join us as we celebrate the Ordination of our Deacon, Don!

We warmly invite all parishioners to come together for a special morning tea as we celebrate this joyful occasion and give thanks for our new Deacon and his ministry among us.

Following the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, 23 August at the Holy Rosary Church, Watson, ACT.

Come along, share in fellowship, and enjoy morning tea as we celebrate this wonderful milestone in the life of our parish. All are warmly welcome!



CENTRAL CANBERRA, BRADDON & DICKSON

- **RCIA program facilitated by Fr Vergel SSS every Thursday at 6:00 pm. Venue: St Brigid's Parish Hall.** Adults who are interested about learning the Catholic Faith or desire to be Catholic may enlist themselves for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) by contacting our email innernorth@cg.org.au.
- **Altar Server Training at St Brigid's & St Patrick's.** St Brigid's and St Patrick's are seeking new altar servers. A three-night training course will be held on Mondays, 7, 14 and 21 September at 6:30pm. Attendance at all sessions is required for induction and rostering. To register your interest, email Hugh at hajones1981@outlook.com.
- **Cana Youth (Years 7-12) – Saturdays, 5 & 19 September, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm following the Vigil Mass. Venue: St Brigid's Parish Hall. There will be no youth group during the Archdiocesan Assembly.**
- **Healing Service – St. Brigid's.** The service will take place after the 9:30 am Sunday Mass on 23 August. Please note that, this month only, it will be held on the fourth Sunday.
- **First Anniversary of the Grotto of Our Lady** St Brigid's Parish, Dickson, will celebrate the first anniversary of the Grotto of Our Lady on Tuesday, 8 September. Please note that the usual 8:40 am Rosary and 9:00 am Mass will not be held. Instead, the Rosary will be prayed at 5:00pm, followed by Mass at 5:30pm. The celebration will conclude with a blessing prayer at the Grotto. All are welcome.

ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

- **Junior Schola Cantorum – Rehearsals every Saturday 9:30 am.** Choral training for ages 8-16, preparing for the 2028 Eucharistic Congress in Sydney. Based on the Royal School of Church Music and Jubilate Deo programs. Morning tea provided. Register at: <https://linktr.ee/stjoseph.choristers>
- **Choral Vespers – Sunday, 23 August 4:00 pm.** Join St. Joseph's Choristers for an hour of sacred choral music with Benediction, followed by afternoon tea. Come and Sing Session at 3:00 pm. RSVP here <https://linktr.ee/stjoseph.choristers>

ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

- **Confirmation on Sunday, 30 August, New Start Time: 9:00 am.**

BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

- **The Eucharist in the Life of the Church – The Eucharist and Devotion – Mondays, 24 & 31 August, 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm. Venue: Parish Centre.** Register at innernorth@cg.org.au. For more information, contact Roger Paul at rpaul2572@gmail.com | <https://tinyurl.com/EucharisLifeChurch2026>
- **The Craft Group.** Offering friendship, company and cuppa on Wednesdays (except 3rd Wednesday) from mid-day in the parish centre. All welcome!
- **Scripture Reflection** for the following Sunday is held each Wednesday in the parish centre from 7:30 pm to 8.30 pm. All welcome.
- **ACU Noon Masses.** Starts with adoration at 11:15 am every Tuesday and Wednesday at the Signadou Chapel (during Semester period)
- **Confirmation Mass.** Our children from the Holy Rosary Primary School will be having their confirmation on **Friday, 28 August at 5:30 pm.** We include our them in our prayers together with their families.
- **Cana Kids (Years 4-6) – Sundays, 6 & 20 September, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm following the 10:00 am Mass. Venue: Parish Centre. There will be no Youth Group during the Archdiocesan Assembly.**

FROM THE OFFICE

- **Institute for Synodal Evangelisation's Fourth Formation Forum: "What Do We Believe?" – Tuesday, 15 September, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Venue: Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre.** Explore the meaning of the Creed, its role in uniting Christians across generations and cultures, and how it continues to shape our faith and daily lives. Online: us06web.zoom.us/j/87199525802 (Meeting ID: 871 9952 5802) | Cost: Free (registration required) | Register: tinyurl.com/35vs84jZ | Enquiries: institute@cg.org.au.
- **Faith & Light – Come and See – Saturday, 5 September from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Venue: Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Curtin.** Join Faith & Light, a Christian community for people with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends. Come and experience faith, friendship, prayer, and fellowship over afternoon tea. For more information, contact Anne on 0415 175 802.
- **Cursillo 60th Anniversary Reunion, Saturday, 24 – Sunday 25 October, St Christopher's Parish Centre, Manuka.** To celebrate, a reunion will be held on the above dates and all who have participated in a Cursillo recently, or in the long-distant past, are invited to register and come along. Please register before 16 October. Contact acgcursillo@gmail.com More info and registration <https://tinyurl.com/cg60reunion>

"Be not afraid to tell Jesus
that you love Him."

~Saint Thérèse of Lisieux



YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT A LOT...

First Collection

(Supporting all the priests of the Archdiocese)

A/C Name: **Central Presbytery Fund**, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account: 00029248
Reference: Your parish location, name and intention (e.g., Campbell Smith 1st collect)

Second Collection

(Maintenance/upkeep of the Churches, staff salaries, liturgical needs, insurance, etc.)

~ **Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon**: A/C Name **Canberra Central Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013150, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Joseph, O'Connor**: A/C Name: **St Joseph's Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00012798, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Thomas More, Campbell**: A/C Name: **St Thomas More Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00014869, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **Blackfriars, Watson**: A/C Name: **Blackfriars Parish Watson**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013341, Ref: Name & Giving Number

By discerning your vocation,
you can discover what God is
calling you to do with your
life and how you can best use
your gifts and talents to serve
Him and others.

If you are interested in
learning more about
discerning your vocation,
please visit the Archdiocesan
Vocations website:

www.cgatholic.org.au/vocations



PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

The CINCC is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the center of all of our thinking and action.

Parish Safeguarding Officers:

- **Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon**: Barbara | CanberraCentral.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **St Joseph, O'Connor**: Noel | OConnor.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **St Thomas More, Campbell**: Margie | Campbell.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **Blackfriars, Watson**: Nicole | Watson.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

Please send any concerns or enquiries to the above parish email addresses. You may also contact Maria Hicks, Manager of the Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS), at ipss@cg.org.au or 02 6239 9806.

CONNECT WITH US...

Fr Renoir Jr. Z. Oliver, SSS (Moderator)
E: renoir.oliver@cg.org.au

Fr Sebastian A. Luistro, SSS (Community Superior)
E: sebastian.luistro@cg.org.au

Fr Anthony "Thonn" C. Riosa, SSS
E: anthony.riosa@cg.org.au

Fr Vergel M. Dalangin, SSS
E: vergel.dalangin@cg.org.au



WWW.CGINNERNORTH.ORG.AU

Parish Secretaries:
Kathie Guillester and Cerisse Gomez
E: innernorth@cg.org.au
M: 0416 823 447 or 0412 128 038
P: PO Box 900, Dickson ACT 2602
Office Hours: Monday Closed
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00am–1:00 pm



"BE WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE
AND YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE"
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

The CINCC acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.