

Thought for the week
24th Sunday of the Year (B)
16th September 2018

Who do people say YOU are?

In this weekend's Gospel Jesus asks his disciples, "*Who do people say I am?*" Peter, the one who was later to deny him three times, answers for them all, "*You are the Christ.*"

For us, having heard the whole story many times, this may not seem all that remarkable: we recognise Jesus as the Christ; we acknowledge him as God Incarnate and we celebrate and know him as our Saviour and our Brother.

We as his 21st century disciples, here in his world, today, are charged with a personal mission to share and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and to witness to the love of God. Does anyone know that?

If you asked your friends, your work colleagues, your next door neighbours or anyone else who knows you: "*Who do people say I am?*" what would the response be? Would they mention your faith?

As St James asked his readers in the late first or early second century: do we demonstrate the "Good Works" that evidence our faith to those we meet? Or do we rely on our "Faith" being enough?

It can often be hard visibly to demonstrate and share our faith as Christians in our busy daily lives. Isaiah's Suffering Servant is willing to bear great pain, humiliation and rejection for the sake of witnessing to his Lord. He is confident that the Lord, who has spoken to him, will come to his help. Personally, I feel weak and a bit inadequate as I contemplate these scripture readings – I'm not sure that I am ready for public "*insults and spittle*" and I'm glad that I don't have a beard to be torn!

As I pray this Sunday's readings, I ask for the courage and insight to be a better witness to the faith that we share.

A Parishioner