

Thought for the week
Sunday August 23rd, 2020
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,

we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.

Amen.

Both the Gospel and the first readings this week see the appointment to high office - of Peter who is declared the rock on which the Church is to be built; and that of Eliakim appointed to be 'Master of the Palace' upon the dismissal from office of the previous master, Shebna.

Both have considerable power given to them; the key to the House of David and to the Kingdom of Heaven. We are not told why Shebna was dismissed as Master of the Palace and I am not sure what 'qualities' Eliakim, son of Hilkiah possesses to warrant this appointment.

From the Gospel, the 'interview' for the role appointed to Peter appears to have been based on a seemingly simple question: 'Who do you say I am'? Jesus had spent time with his disciples and clearly got to know who would be the best candidate for the job - it still came down to that one question, answered only by a deeper understanding and revelation that could only have come from a profound understanding of who God is.

Leadership roles, or any job for that matter, come with huge responsibilities, those we hear in today's Gospel even more so as they hold the key to eternal life or death.

How does this relate to me then - you might ask yourself?

I think we are all called to lead in small ways, as heads of households, various communities, husbands, wives, older siblings, even just friends. We are called to bring others along with us, to support each other, to work towards unity for a single purpose.

The Collect this week sums it up for me:

'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 where true gladness is found'.

Yvonne Mubanga



Prayers Please

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who has just come out of hospital having suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 7 and has leukaemia. Rogan is responding well to his fortnightly treatment, but continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including; George Crabb, Sr M Audrey (Barbara Rebeiro) Winifred Eve James, Jude D'Souza, Deadre Keogh, Jay Colley, Pam Marsland and Anthony Patrick.