


24th Sunday of Ordinary Time
15th September 2024



You are the Christ.

Mark 8



In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear of a time when Jesus was travelling with his disciples, and while they walked, Jesus asked them, "Who do people say that I am?" Jesus knew that the public might be confused about him. Stories were getting around about Jesus: that he healed the sick; that he argued with the religious leaders; that he understood things about the Scriptures and God that people twice his age didn't know. Folks must have been wondering, "Who is this Jesus, anyway?"

The disciples shared some of the guesses they had heard others make. "Some say you're John the Baptist. Others think you're Elijah and still others think you're one of the prophets." Then Jesus asked what he really wanted to know. "But who do you, my disciples and closest friends, say that I am?" he asked. Peter knew the right answer. He said, "You are the Messiah, sent from God." Then Jesus began to teach the disciples what it meant for him to be the Messiah, the One sent to save the people from their sin. He told his friends that he would need to suffer pain and rejection. He told them he would be killed, and after three days, he would rise again. Being God's chosen Messiah was not an easy job! It wasn't all healing and miracles and good times. There were going to be some really hard times ahead, too.

Peter didn't like what he was hearing. He pulled Jesus aside and started to argue with him. "No, Jesus! This couldn't happen to you! You've been chosen by God!" But Jesus cut Peter off and told him that he wasn't looking at the big picture. The hard times were a necessary part of God's plan. Being Jesus, and being a disciple of Jesus would not always be easy, but Jesus promised that faithfulness would always be worth it.

Jesus knew who he was. We know who we are, too. We are his disciples.
We are Christians.

This week let us pray for:

- ♦ everyone who has joined our school community this September;
- ♦ those affected by the recent earthquakes, storms and uprisings across the world;
- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



Loving Lord, we think of the children and young people close to our hearts, know that they are precious in Your sight and so we place them into Your hands today. Strengthen and nurture them. Be with them in their coming in and going out, at home and at school. In their sports, activities and clubs, their friendships and their quiet times. Mould them in Your image, forming and reforming through the positive influence of those whose lives cross theirs, through the love and example of those who care for them and through the constant love of Your Son, Jesus, who walks alongside them each step of their lives. Amen

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body, and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Do not be afraid to say 'yes' to Jesus: to find your joy in doing his will"
Pope Benedict XVI