

## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Today's gospel is the turning point in the ministry of Jesus.

When they were alone, Jesus suddenly stops and he says to his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They reply, "Some say that you're John the Baptist." "Others say you're Jeremiah or some great prophet from the past."

And then Jesus says to them,

*"Who do you say that I am?"*

And Simon (Peter), the impetuous Simon (Peter) who a couple of weeks ago we heard was walking towards Jesus when he panicked and cried out for Jesus to save him and hold him tight makes the great profession of faith

*"You are the Christ,*

which means the Messiah, the Holy One, the Anointed One of God.

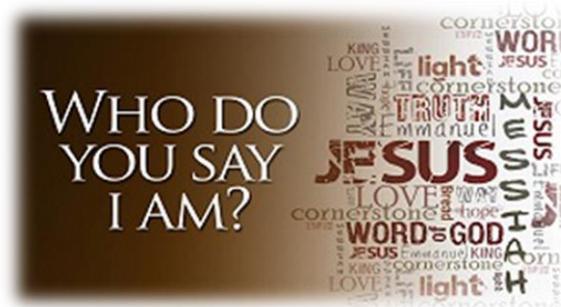
*"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*



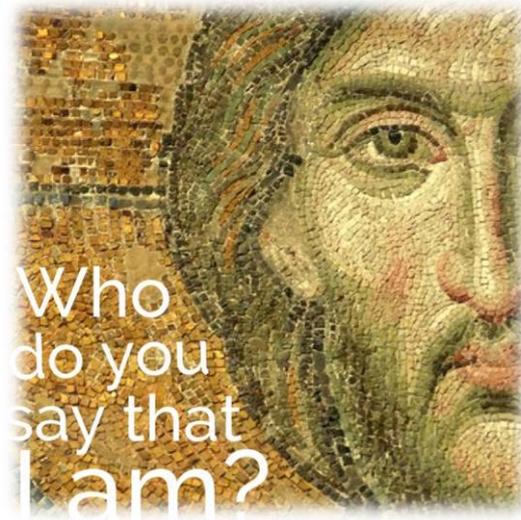
And then Jesus, with great love, says to Simon (Peter), "Peter." Peter means rock.

Jesus says to him, "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 then he tells him, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."



Jesus is saying to each one of us, “*Who do you say that I am?*”



Spend a few moments reflecting on the question, “*Who is Jesus to you?*”

If we respond to the question with faith and love, then we make ourselves disciples of Jesus.

This is what Jesus was establishing: a community of men and women, very ordinary, like Peter, full of weaknesses, insecurities and difficulties but also open to share God’s own life and love and to become one with Jesus. This is the Church; this is the vision of Jesus; this is the way of love.

For in that moment, in that place, Jesus established one thing: the world is now changed, the world is new, the world is not the way it used to be. We are called as disciples to respond in faith and love. Like Peter, we will not always get things right. That’s why he is a good role model.

St Julie Billiart, the founders of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur had a wonderful saying, “Better mistakes than paralysis”.

We must not use our fear of failure as an excuse to stop us acting with love and mercy and compassion. Jesus is with us and understands our imperfections. Like Peter, he chooses us because of them.

Jesus is with us and each time we fall he lifts us up and says, “Come with me, for we have two purposes in life: one is to love and one is to serve.”

Let us continue to love and serve one another in the community of Dockhead.