

Peter is then declared as “the rock” on which Jesus will build his Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus’ identity. Our faith continues to be grounded on Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God and nothing else. May our lives show that this is the foundational truth of our lives..

The Lord be with you.



## Prayer Points

Thanksgiving

- For the light of Christ in our lives.

Petitions

- Peter, Summer, Helen, Lorna, Debbie, Kaye, Chris, Rita, Julia & John and their families.
- Those affected by COVID 19,
- For our healthcare professionals (who are working ridiculous hours at the moment.)



## The Lighter Side of Life



## *Anglican Parish of the Otways Newsletter*

**12th Sunday after Pentecost**

23rd August, 2020

**Priest in Charge — Rev'd Jenny Brandon**

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**Anglican Parish of the  
Otways**

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

At the very beginning of restrictions in March I asked that we put a light in our windows to remind people that although we live in difficult times, the light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it! (John 1:5). This has meant a lot to many in our community so I ask you to continue with this practice.

As you illuminate your light each night I ask you also to pray for those who are at the frontline, medical professionals and their support staff, governments and police. Here is a prayer you could use.

*God of love and hope, Be with those who are anxious, fearful, lonely sick or dying as a result of COVID19,. Grant them your assurance, healing and peace. We pray for doctors, nurses and scientists as they work to find effective treatments to help those who are ill. Give your wisdom to government and law enforcement authorities as they seek to keep us safe and assure us all of your love and peace. Amen*

Please remember I am available on the parish mobile at any time and I will try to be in contact with each of you personally during this time.

May the Lord bless you with peace and joy.  
Jenny

### Prayer of the Week

O God, fount of all wisdom,  
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter  
you have shown the foundation of our faith:  
give us the light of your Spirit,  
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God,  
we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

Reading. Matthew 16:13-20

### Reflection

In today's reading we find Jesus and his disciples in the district of Caesarea Philippi, a town, rebuilt by Herod's son Philip, who named it after the emperor Tiberius Caesar and himself. It lay just to the north of the Sea of Galilee and near the slopes of Mount Hermon and was an area that was predominantly pagan, dedicated to the pagan God Pan. In a sense, therefore, it was both an unexpected yet fitting place for Jesus' identity to be proclaimed. He was, after all, not just for his own people but for the whole world.

Jesus begins by asking his disciples who people think he really is. They respond with some of the speculations that were going round: he was John the Baptist resurrected from the dead or Elijah, whose return was expected to herald the imminent coming of the Messiah, or Jeremiah or some other of the great prophets.

And you," Jesus goes on, "who do you say I am?" It was a moment of truth, a very special moment in his disciples' relationship with their Master. Simon speaks up: "You are the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is a huge step forward for Peter and his companions. As we shall see, it is not yet a total recognition of his identity or mission but is an exciting moment in their relationship with him.

The focus shifts immediately to Simon. He is praised for his insight but Jesus makes it clear that it comes from divine inspiration.

Although Jesus asks about what others say, it is what Peter says that is important to him. Behind the words Jesus was not, for Peter, another great or admirable figure but was the one who could change his life.

This passages raises some important questions for us.

1. Am I open to divine inspiration as I go about my day or now in my prayer time? And 2. Who is Jesus for me?

We give witness to who Jesus is in our lives, not only with what we say but by how we let Jesus change and reconfigure our priorities.

Jesus could trust Peter to be honest – he would say what was on his mind and in his heart. As Jesus asks us the same question, we can answer honestly, knowing that nothing we say will alienate Jesus. If we are uncertain about what to say, we can invite Jesus offer us divine inspiration.