



Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Matthew 16:13-19

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Some things to think about...

Cephas means "rock" in Aramaic. The English for Cephas is Peter. This is why we read that Jesus gives Simon the name Peter.

Why does Jesus say "On this **rock** I will build my church"? Why is rock a good thing to build on?

Jesus chose Peter to be one of His leaders who would spread the Good News. What does it mean to be a leader?

Activity

Each take a rock and paint/decorate it, writing your name clearly on the rock. When you have finished, put all your rocks together in a circle to show that God has chosen each of you to be leaders and spread the Good News by helping those in your community.

Materials needed for the activity:

Pebble/small stone (real or paper template)
Paint + paintbrushes, pens.

Teacher's Notes

This passage from is a pivotal moment in the Gospels, where Jesus challenges His disciples to recognise His true identity. While people think that He might be a prophet like John the Baptist or Elijah, Peter boldly declares, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus affirms Peter's declaration, and renames Simon as Peter (meaning "rock") and declares that on this foundation of faith, He will build His Church. Jesus also entrusts Peter with the "keys of the kingdom," symbolising spiritual authority and the responsibility to lead the Church. Pope Francis viewed the "keys" given to Peter not as a source of power or authority, but as a gift of responsibility and a call to service. Pope Francis' legacy is a good example of leadership to follow as a Mini Vinnie group, as he always encouraged us to serve other people.

This passage highlights the importance of faith, divine revelation, and the Church's foundation. It also invites reflection on who Jesus is for each believer and how faith shapes our lives and leadership within the Church community.

Notes: