



**Petrie
Catholic
Parish**

Incorporating

Our Lady of The Way

38 Armstrong Street,
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&

St. Francis Xavier

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Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

By Greg Sunter—Liturgy Help



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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be **ONLY BE OPENED** on the following days
Monday 31st August, Wednesday 2nd & Friday 4th September
from 8.30am till 12.30pm next week. **Thanks**



Music Ministry – Requires Assistance

We are in **great need** of people who can follow simple instructions and press buttons!

As our Music Ministry has become very small in number, I am asking for volunteers to press a few buttons on the piano so that our congregation can have music to sing to.

I will have each week's required songs recorded on the piano as songs 1, 2 and 3.

I have simplified the instructions and there is only 3 songs being played at this time. If there is no-one around the piano 5 minutes before Mass, could YOU have a go?

Of course, we would really like new musicians and singers if we want to have live music. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Music Ministry, please contact Anne 0412348090. WE NEED YOU!

Living the Gospel.

Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope.

To live like Jesus is no easy option.

Scripture Readings

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20.

Please remember in your prayers the following people;

Brian Carmichael, Scott Hines, Barry Guest, Rolf Germain, Pita Nepata, Norma Quinn, Marcus Neudecker, Neola Corby, Anne Feeney, Christina Peters, Samantha Pride, Terry Segrave, Rita Miles, Steven Williams, Rohan Somasekaran, Thomas Bird, Bradley Wright, Greg Olsson-Lalor, Nina & Raymond Dove, Tia Huff, Helen Chicken, Dorothy Davidson, John Engwicht, Vera Versace, Michelle Woodworth, Abbie Wellspring, Lloyd Mason, Sharon McCourt, Gina Morieni, Paige Hoffman, Nicole Blackburn, Tim McNickle, Kyle Huff, Nathalie Bernon, Ghishiane Smidt, Patrick Bosworth and Cath Campbell.

These names will be removed after 2 months. If you wish for them to remain on longer please ring the Parish Office.



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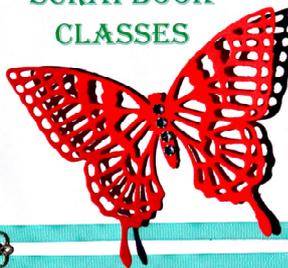
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