



DARE TO DREAM

Autumn Series

Week Beginning September 12th

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Before you begin your reflections...

Today, thank God, many young people in parishes, schools, movements often go out to spend time with the elderly and infirm, or to visit poor neighbourhoods, or to meet people's needs through "nights of charity". Very often, they come to realise that there they receive much more than what they give. We grow in wisdom and maturity when we take time to touch the suffering of others. The poor have a hidden wisdom and, with a few simple words, they can help us discover unexpected values.

Pope Francis (Christus Vivit 171)

Video - Watch and listen to Fr. Michael Healy

Prayerfully read this passage from the Gospel of Mark 8:27-35

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

- Take some time to ponder on the words you have just read.
- Notice if there is anything, a word or phrase that stands out for you.
- Read the passage again and then reflect upon all or some of these questions: if you are doing this as a family or a group, make sure everyone is given the opportunity to speak.

Personal Reflections

- Jesus asks his disciples 'But who do you say that I am?' At this moment in your journey of faith how would you answer this question?
- How has your understanding of Jesus changed over the years?
- When has your faith helped to stand firm in the face of adversity or derision?

Now thinking about your parish and local community

- Peter does not want Jesus to suffer. Are there ways in which we as a community avoid or want to avoid suffering, even though there are aspects of our parish life that may have to die if we are to move forward?
- St. James reminds us that 'faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead'. How does your parish put faith into action? Is there something more that the parish could be doing to demonstrate a community that is alive and active for Christ?
- As a parish what plans do you have for the coming year that might attract people to want to know more about Jesus?

Action

Consider having an open day with displays of everything the parish has on offer.

- Invite people in the neighbourhood.
- Have food on offer that reflects the diversity of your parish,
- Have tour guides for the Church and enable people to light a candle or just sit in silence.
- Ensure that you get your young people involved – consider if you aren't already setting up the Faith in Action Award scheme in your parish.
<https://faithinactionaward.co.uk>

Finish with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the grace to respond.

