
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

23rd August 2026

Vestment Colour: Green

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh has a website that contains further resources, information and plans for Children's Liturgy for use by Children's Liturgy Leaders. A full template is available on the website.

Health & Safety: *Once you are all assembled, take a head count in case of the need to evacuate (if possible, roster of names). Candles are permitted if they are included in your risk assessment.*

Introduction:

Leader: Today, we hear Jesus calling Simon 'Peter' the rock on which His Church would be built.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Gospel Acclamation: All stand to welcome the Gospel. (*You can encourage the children to sing the Alleluia*).

Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Alleluia.

Alternatively, you can sing the following (*Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It'*)

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Gospel: Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year A). Alternatively use an approved translation of the Bible (the ESV-CE version or Good News Bible for Children). *Do not paraphrase the Gospel; however, you may need to explain unusual or difficult words and names to the children.*

Matthew 16:13-20

Leader: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

All: "Glory to You, O Lord."

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

Leader: "The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ". Ask everyone to be seated.

Gospel Reflection: *the following are some suggestions to help with a discussion around the Gospel.*

- **What did you hear in the Gospel today?** Give the children time to share their thoughts.
- **Who did the people think Jesus was?** John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

- **Jesus asked the disciples what they thought. What answer did they give?**
Only Peter answered saying 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'.
- **I wonder how the disciples felt being asked that questioned?** May be confused, frightened or embarrassed. Explain that we can feel like this when faced with a question that we are unsure of. God will help us in difficult times, just like He did with Peter.
- **Why did Jesus call Simon 'Peter'?** Explain to the Children that the name Peter in Greek is 'Petros' meaning stone or pebble. In Aramaic it is 'Kephas or Cephas' meaning solid rock. Jesus knew from Peter's answer that, because of his faith, he would be a good strong foundation on which to build His Church. You could discuss the story of building a house on sand or rock.

Prayers of the Faithful:

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Leader: We now ask Our Lord to hear our prayer

Dear Jesus

We ask that those who face threats because of their faith in you, find strength and courage to continue in their love of You.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

Dear Jesus

May our faith and love in You continue to increase so that we can continue to build Your Church in the world.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord,

May we have faith and strength like St Peter, to always follow You and love You.

All: Amen.