

# St Patrick's Parish Bulletin

*He asked them,*

**“But  
who  
do you  
say  
that I  
am?”**



11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity  
23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

This week's service was led by Julie Thompson and the preacher was Andrew Campbell.

## **Reading – St Matthew Chapter 16 verses 13 - 20**

### **Address**

One of my favourite games growing up was 'Guess who?', do you remember it? If you do not, it was a game about identity: two players take a card with a picture of a person and name on it. You then try to work your opponent's identity, using a series of questions. You asked questions such as 'does your person have blue eyes, yes or no?', or 'do they have a hat, yes or no?' From their answers, you tried to work out the identity of the person on the card.

The question of identity is key to our gospel reading this morning. Two questions from Jesus prompt an answer to the most important question of identity in history. So, let us look at them together in St Matthew's gospel. Jesus went into Caesarea, a pagan city on the sea of Galilee. He and his disciples were away from the Jewish crowd that usually followed them, and Jesus asked what people said he was. His followers answered him with an extremely positive response "*...Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets...*" This was high praise indeed: people recognised Jesus as someone special. But Jesus is so much more: he is not simply the next in a long line of messengers God despatched to announce the coming King - Jesus was that King. The crowd had come close in its answer - they nearly had it - but just missed it. In the game of 'Guess who' they would have come a close second but would still have lost.

The correction of the crowd's mistake is in the answer to Jesus' second question, one that is, perhaps, the most important verses in the Bible "*...He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am...?'*". Simon Peter answered "*...You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God...*". Peter had been with Jesus from the beginning of this gospel. He was among the first to follow Jesus and was with him throughout his ministry. He had heard the Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus, the carpenter's son from a provincial backwater, taught with authority and knowledge that surpassed the greatest speakers and thinkers, not only of his age, but of any age. He had seen Jesus heal a leper, bringing him back into the community. He had seen Jesus heal a Centurion's sick servant. These acts showed his power over sickness. He had seen Jesus calm the winds and the waves, showing his power over the elements. He had seen Jesus cast out demons, showing his power over the spiritual realm. He had seen Jesus forgive sins, something only God himself can do. He had seen Jesus

bring a little girl back from the dead, showing his power over death. He had seen Jesus restore sight to the blind and give voices to the mute. He had seen Jesus feed multitudes with little food and had seen Jesus walk on water.

Peter had seen Jesus do what only God can do; the impossible. He had seen Jesus do what simply could not be done by humans. All of this had been predicted about God's son, the Messiah. If you were playing 'Guess Who?' with the Messiah, there were questions from the Old Testament you could have asked: questions found in Isaiah, 'do the blind receive sight?', 'do the lame walk?', 'are lepers cured?', 'do the deaf hear?', 'are the dead raised?' and, finally, 'is good news preached to the poor?' Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, and again, yes. Now that these questions have been asked and answered, the only card left is the Messiah's.

Jesus 'ticks all those boxes', and having seen the overwhelming evidence, having received all the answers, what else could Peter do but proclaim Jesus as God's long-awaited son, the Messiah. Peter's answer, and his faith that Jesus is the Messiah, are the foundation stone of the Church. Peter's faith has been passed on to us over the last two thousand years. We have read the accounts of what Peter witnessed, accounts of those who suffered and died rather than deny Jesus. In our bibles we have the testimonies of those who also saw what Peter saw, who heard good news proclaimed, and we also hear Jesus ask of us the question he asked of Peter "...*who do you say that I am..?*". When we hear about what Peter saw - and bear in mind he died a gruesome and painful death rather than deny what he saw - how else can we respond other than to echo Peter's confession, and affirm the rock upon which Christ built His Church. God requires us to listen to His teachings of love and obedience. So, let me ask you, 'who do you say that Jesus is'?

***Amen***



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JOURNEY  
OF  
FAITH

## Prayers

Lord, as we enjoy our fellowship here this morning, we thank you for our Church and our Church Family. You have called us to love, serve and support each other, let us always remember that calling and act accordingly. We thank you for the opportunities we have had during the last few months to show that our Church is not just a building, and to share the good news of your love for us in new and exciting ways. We ask that you bless our Church leaders as they prepare to open the doors of our Church buildings once more, and that we are given the wisdom to keep our community safe as we face new challenges in the weeks ahead.

Lord, thank you for the week that is past, for protecting us in times of need and uncertainty and for providing us with food and shelter at a time when so many are hungry and homeless. We pray for people who are facing difficulties due to political unrest, for those facing persecution because of their beliefs or ethnicity and for those suffering from the effects of famine and drought. Help us always to be mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves and to do everything we can to help restore justice and equality in your world.

We pray today for all those who have received exam results in recent times. We ask you to be with our young people as they start new chapters in their lives, may you be their constant guide. Help them to listen to your voice and trust in your unfailing love always. We pray for those for whom education is a struggle because of their particular needs. May they be blessed with gifted and caring teachers who can unlock their ability to understand and introduce them to the joy of learning. Loving Lord, we pray for all those who work in schools and colleges as they prepare to reopen this week. May they be blessed with enthusiasm and energy, wisdom and discernment as they face the glories and the challenges of the new academic year.

Heavenly Father, in your love and wisdom you know the fears of all your children. We ask not only for ourselves but for all others especially our Healthcare workers, and our Government, that we may cast all our cares on you, for we know that you care for us. Lord, we are so thankful that you promise to be with us always. We pray today and every day that we will be aware of your nearness to us, especially if we feel alone or uncertain of how life is unfolding at this time. We commend to your care and compassion all those who are unwell, thinking especially of Freda, Jean, Katie, David, Helen, Kate, Eleanor, Desi and Derek. We pray for those who have been bereaved recently, thinking especially of the Hamilton family, may they feel the comfort of your presence each day.

Father, in this new week, may we be surrounded by your love. Uphold each one of us in our daily tasks and fill our minds with positive thoughts. Guide us through the unexpected and help us to surrender to your will. Remind us that your guidance is always at hand and direct us to place our complete and utter trust in you. As we walk each step may we demonstrate your presence as we speak kindly, act lovingly and give you thanks for our many blessings each day.

Merciful Father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

## Announcement

Dear Friends

Since 22<sup>nd</sup> March our church buildings have been closed, and though we have continued to meet via various media, we look forward to physical regathering. I want to pay tribute to the many members of our Church family who have kept us together via online services, the Parish Bulletin and telephone calls. As we move towards regathering, we hope to open the buildings on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Initially, this will only be for worship, funerals and weddings. I should add that anyone displaying COVID related symptoms should not attend Church gatherings but continue to worship online.

Our time together will, however, be different as we align ourselves with 'The Church of Ireland Return to In-Church Worship' protocols and government guidelines. These will mean changes for our worship together. Social distancing will significantly limit the capacity of buildings, and you will be shown to your seats by the churchwardens and welcome team. Additionally, there will be no singing, and for the safety of your fellow worshippers, we ask that you wear a mask. Finally, you will notice that there will be an absence of prayer books, Bibles and hymnals in the pews and porch. To facilitate these required changes the Select Vestry has implemented a strategy offering safe substitutes that allow our Church to reopen. These include a second service in the church hall at 10:30am to maximise the number of people who can gather physically for worship. There will be set doors for entrance (The Buckna door in the church building and main door in the hall). Initially, we ask people to bring their own prayer books or download & print the Order of Service from the Church website or Facebook page. We are also in the process of updating our audiovisual equipment, which will allow live streaming, and for the Order of Service and substitute videos to be displayed on screens.

These are some of the steps we have taken to enable reopening on 6th September. A list of guidelines is now available on the Church website and Facebook page. Please take time to read them in preparation for physical gathering together.

I want to thank the Select Vestry for its hard work preparing for this important step in the life of our Church family, and ask you to continue to pray to for the members and myself at this unprecedented time.

Your Friend and Rector

Andrew



We are on YouTube at 11.30am at

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC6tcPjZbMe0muLYrskLvbbQ/videos](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6tcPjZbMe0muLYrskLvbbQ/videos)

or via the website

[www.stpatricksbroughshane.com](http://www.stpatricksbroughshane.com). – Noticeboard then click on the Service you require

or on **Facebook** through our Facebook page

You can also listen to the Service on the **telephone** after 1pm on Sunday on **028 2517 0014** (*calls are charged at local rate*)



And every **Monday** at 12 noon on **Facebook** join us for readings and prayers.

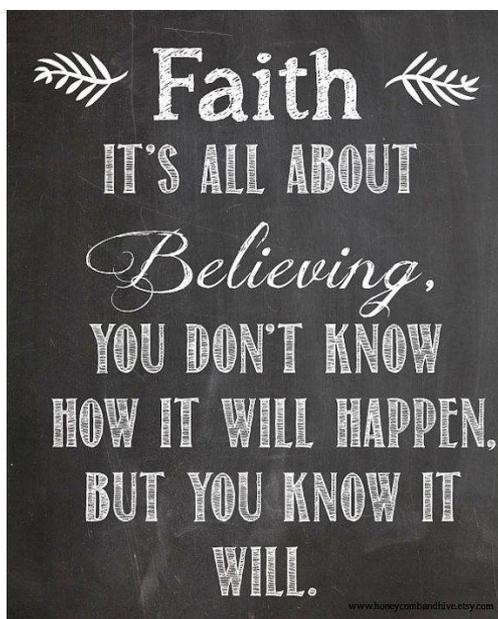
## A Question of Faith

Our midweek talks continue on

**26th August –**

**Faith and Suffering** Gareth Black

*Join us at 12noon on Wednesday via the links above*



## Weekly Collections - Standing Order, Cheque or Envelopes?



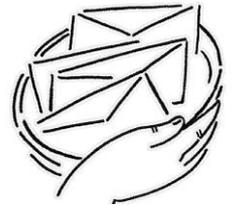
Would you consider setting up a Standing Order instead of envelopes? If so, please contact

Desi at [darmstrong56@outlook.com](mailto:darmstrong56@outlook.com) or  
the Rector at [revdrapcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:revdrapcampbell@gmail.com)



You could send your usual offerings by cheque.

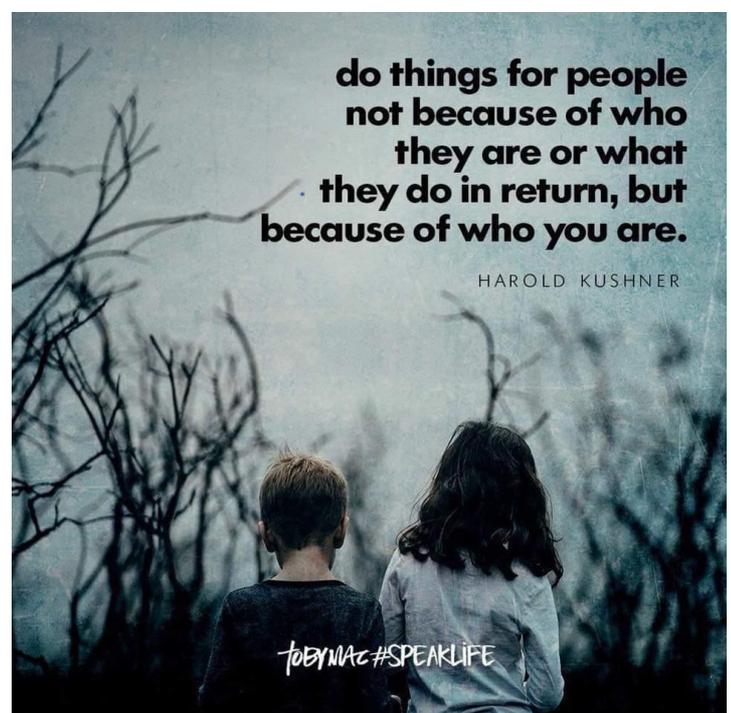
Of course, you can continue to put your offerings in the Church envelopes and hand them in later.



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**JustGiving™** is a way to financially support the ministry and mission of St Patrick's Broughshane as we share God's love with the community. Click the link on the Facebook page or Google Just Giving & search for:  
**'St Patricks Church, Broughshane'**

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**Sometimes  
in life we just  
need a hug...  
no words, no advice,  
just a hug to make  
you feel you matter.**



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Dear God, it's me ...again.  
I ask you to guide me through  
the week. Protect my family,  
help us through our struggles  
and give me strength when  
I am weak. I have faith you  
will bring us through.

**Amen**

~ Shelby Condo

LESSONS  
LEARNED  
in life



Lord, I'm so tired.  
My only wish is please  
end Covid. Place peace in  
my day and restore calmness  
in the world. Please keep my  
family, friends and whoever  
is reading this safe, healthy  
and blessed.

**Amen**

~Shelby Condo

[lessonslearnedinlife.com](http://lessonslearnedinlife.com)

**Lord,  
I put my family in your  
hands today. I can't control  
everything that happens to  
them but I can remember to  
cover them in prayer. Please  
keep them safe.**

**Amen.**

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