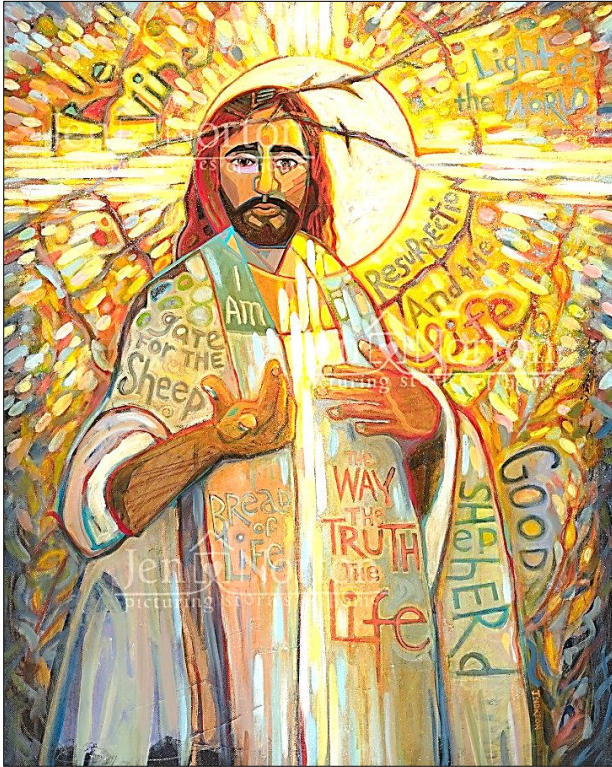


Our Lady of Lourdes, Perth

Parish Newsletter 23rd August 2026

21st WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME A

Who Do You Say That I Am?



At the heart of this Sunday's Gospel stands one of the most important questions Jesus ever asks His disciples: **"But you, who do you say I am?"** Peter answers with a profession of faith: **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** And Jesus responds: **"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church."**

This conversation at Caesarea Philippi is not simply a moment from the past. The same question is addressed to every generation of Christians and, today, personally to each one of us: **Who is Jesus Christ for me?**

It is possible to know many things about Jesus, to be familiar with the Gospel, to attend Mass and know the prayers of the Church, and yet still need to answer this question with our own life. Peter does not merely repeat what others are saying. His answer becomes a personal confession of faith. And upon this faith Christ builds His Church.

This Sunday's Gospel therefore speaks not only about Peter, but also about **the mystery of the Church**. The Church is not simply an organisation created by human beings. At its centre stands Christ. He is its foundation and its Lord. Peter receives a particular mission of strengthening the faith and preserving the unity of

Christ's disciples, but the Church ultimately belongs to Christ: **"I will build my Church."**

There is great consolation in these words. The Church has experienced many difficult moments throughout her history. Human weakness, division, persecution and sin have wounded her repeatedly. Yet Christ makes a remarkable promise: **"the gates of the underworld shall never hold out against it."** We come because He is living and present among His people, speaking through His Word and giving Himself to us in His Body and Blood. Perhaps this week we might carry one simple question into our prayer: **"Jesus, who are You for me?"** And then allow our answer to be expressed not only with our lips, but in the way we pray, forgive, serve, love and live.

May Peter's profession of faith becomes our own: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Have a blessed Sunday and a peaceful week ahead.

Fr Leszek

LOUIS JOSEPH SMITH, who died on 7th August 2026, aged 85. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 26th August at 10.30am, followed by Committal at Perth Crematorium at 12 noon.

GERARD MARTIN WELSH, who died on 7th August 2026, aged 62. Reception of Remains will take place on Thursday 27th August at 5.00pm, followed by his Requiem Mass on Friday 28th August at 10.00am and interment at Jeanfield Cemetery at 11.15am.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

If you know someone in hospital who would like a visit from a priest for prayer, spiritual support, Holy Communion (Viaticum: communion for dying), Confession, or the Anointing of the Sick,

please contact the Priest on call, at 07842 538056 ASAP.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

Scottish Charity Number: SC001810

Parish Priest: Fr. Leszek Więcaszek SAC
42 Struan Road, Perth, PH1 2JP

E-mail: ourladyoflourdes@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Website: www.ourladyoflourdesperth.church

Parish Secretary:

Dianne Mitchell - 01738 626979
(Thursday 10.00am – 12.30pm)

E-mail: ololadmin@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Coordinators:

Marie Stuart & Dianne Mitchell

E-mail: ololpsc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor:

Linda Gourlay **E-mail:** safeguardingadvisor@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Telephone: 01382 225453 (option 5)

Website: www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk/safeguarding

Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency

www.scssa.org.uk

Diocesan Curial Offices:

Address: 24–28 Lawside Road, Dundee, DD3 6XY

Telephone: 01382 225453

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 22:15, 19-23
“I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.”

Responsorial Psalm Ps 138(137): *R* 8bc
“O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.”

Second Reading 1Romans 11:33-36
“From him and through him and to him are all things.”

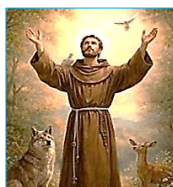
Gospel Acclamation Matthew 16:18

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**

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20
“You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”

ALPHA COURSE REVIEW & NEXT STEPS

There will be an **Alpha Course debrief** with **Paul Allaker** in the Our Lady of Lourdes hall on **Tuesday 25th August after Mass**, to reflect on the course and discuss next steps for both parishes. Tea and coffee will be available.



FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR

*“Who do you say I am?”
You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

During this Franciscan Jubilee Year, marking 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi, this question takes on a special meaning. St Francis answered it not only with words, but with his whole life. For him, Christ was the centre of everything — the One to be loved, followed and recognised especially in the poor and vulnerable.

May this Jubilee help us to answer Christ’s question personally and courageously, not only by what we say, but by the way we live: **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

AS YOU KNOW, Brother Filip Sieradzki has been with us during the month of August. Brother Filip is a member of the Pallottine community in Poland, officially known as **the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (SAC)**, an international community of priests and brothers founded **by St Vincent Pallotti** in Italy.

The Pallottines arrived in Poland in 1907 through the efforts of Fr Alojzy Majewski and have since developed their missionary and apostolic work in Poland and around the world.

Thank you for making Brother Filip feel so welcome and for spending time with him, helping him to improve his English language skills.

This weekend, I would like to ask for your generous support of the retiring collection for the Pallottine Seminary in Poland.

Your donations will help support the formation of those who are discerning and responding to God’s call to the priesthood and religious life. Thank you.

Next weekend, 30th August, there will be the 2nd collection for Bishop’s Mensal Fund

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesdays: Holy Rosary 9.30am, Holy Mass at 10.00am. followed by coffee/tea in the hall.

Thursdays: Holy Rosary 9.30am, Holy Mass at 10.00 am.

The Drop-in Group resumes on **Friday 28th August, 1.00–3.00pm**, in the Our Lady of Lourdes church hall. Join us for refreshments, games, quizzes and fellowship. **All are very welcome!**

PREPARING FOR OUR PARISH EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Like Peter, we are invited to profess our faith: **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** The same Christ comes to meet us at every Mass and remains with us in the Blessed Sacrament.