

LIVING FAITH

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 30, 2026

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 16: 21-27

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.'

But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, '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 will find it.

For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?

Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

In last week's Gospel, Peter seemed to "Get it." When Jesus asked him, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." But in today's Gospel, when confronted with the truth that Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, was going to suffer terribly and then die, Peter cannot bear it. It's too much for him, and he tries to persuade Jesus that what he has predicted must not be allowed to happen. But Jesus sees a truth that Peter does not immediately grasp. Being Jesus' disciple, living in love and total submission to God's will, almost always involves taking up the cross and suffering with Jesus. Jesus lived his life in love. He gave his life for others. If we are going to follow Jesus, if we are going to be Christians, then we, too have to give up some things in order to gain others. That's called sacrifice. Sacrifice is not a popular word today—it wasn't a popular word in Jesus' day either, as we can see from Peter's response to Jesus' prediction. But love always involves sacrifice. If you love somebody, you sometimes have to give something up, or compromise. If you love Jesus, there are going to be things you have to give up as well.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- What are some things that you might be asked to give up if you love Jesus?
- What are some of the gains? What do you get if you try to live in love as Jesus taught?
- What do you think is the heart of Jesus' message?

Take Up Your Cross

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the page.



1. To be a follower of Christ, one must _____ self.
2. Jesus said, "_____ up your _____ and _____ me."
3. Whoever wants to _____ his _____ will lose it.
4. Whoever _____ his life for the cause of Christ will find it.
5. What good is it if you _____ the whole _____, but lose your _____?

Matthew 16:24-26 (NIV)

world	Take	life	gain	save
follow	deny	soul	loses	cross

THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

SEPTEMBER 5

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, the future Mother Teresa, was born on 26 August 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, to Albanian heritage. Her father, a well-respected local businessman, died when she was eight years old, leaving her mother, a devoutly religious woman, to open an embroidery and cloth business to support the family. After spending her adolescence deeply involved in parish activities, Agnes left home in September 1928, to join the Loreto Sisters in Dublin, Ireland. She received the name of Teresa, after her patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux.



**If we
really
want to
love, we
must learn
how to
forgive.**



In 1929, as a young sister, Agnes was sent to India as a teacher. On 10 September 1946, on a train journey from Calcutta to Darjeeling, Mother Teresa received what she termed the "call within a call," which was to give rise to the Missionaries of Charity family of Sisters, Brothers, Fathers, and Co-Workers. On October 7, 1950, the new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was officially erected as a religious institute for the Archdiocese of Calcutta. Their purpose was "to quench the infinite thirst of Jesus on the cross for love and souls" by "labouring at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor."

From the late 1960s until 1980, the Missionaries of Charity expanded both in their reach across the globe and in their number of members. Mother Teresa opened houses in Australia, the Middle East, and North America, and the first novitiate outside Calcutta in London. In 1979 Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. By that same year there were 158 Missionaries of Charity foundations all over the world.



Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997 in Calcutta. She was canonised on 4 September 2016, and the anniversary of her death (5 September) is her feast day.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION...

- What inspires you about Mother Teresa's story?
- Think back to the Gospel for today. How was Mother Teresa asked to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel?
- What did she give up?
- What do you think she gained?

The Season of Creation September 1 - October 4, 2026

The World Day of Prayer for Creation is celebrated on September 1 each year. This day honors God's act of creation and is observed by many Christian denominations, including the Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church. It serves as a time for prayer, reflection, and stewardship of the earth, recognizing the beauty and value of creation. The observance is part of a larger Season of Creation that runs from September 1 to October 4, emphasizing the importance of caring for the environment and God's creation.



Living Water Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

SEASON OF CREATION 2026 INTERCFESSORY PRAYERS LIVING WATER

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world, our common home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our local community: that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made. Lord, in your mercy...

Source: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/care-of-creation-prayers>