

September 3rd 2023 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time– Year A – Matthew 16:21-27

²¹ 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. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ ²³But 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.’

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For 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?

²⁷ ‘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.

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p>
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This weeks gospel speaks of an incident which happens at a very significant moment in the life of Jesus. Up until now he met with great success in Galilee. Large crowds followed him and his fame spread throughout Syria. Then opposition to him grew, mainly from Scribes and Pharisees. He decided that the time had come to confront these opposing forces at the seat of their power, Jerusalem their home. This decision had tragic consequences which he accepted. When have you found that following Jesus brought you new life even though at the time it may have been difficult?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for the times that you allowed us to experience the peace that Jesus promised us through our relationship with him.

Forgive us Lord for the times as individuals and communities we did not respond like Jesus in enabling people to find their true selves and peace in their heart.

Help us Lord at all times to enable the Spirit of peace to live in our church, our families and our world.

