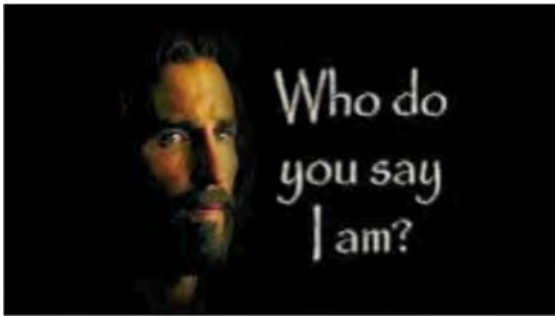


FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“Who do you say I am?”

The question Jesus put to the disciples last week is also asked of us again today. It can be answered in many ways.

The answer can depend on one’s mood, or circumstances, or feelings, or peer pressure, or cultural influences, by one’s own prejudices, whims, and fancies.

Jesus identity –who he is –can easily be obscured, or replaced by who we want him to be. Our image of him can be filtered, formed by our own preconceived wishes and desires.

For some He is a role model –sublime, but ultimately unattainable.

For others, he is the great social reformer, come to put things right, if only we would follow him.

Or he is the genie in a bottle –summoned and invoked to fix whatever problem needs fixing next.

Or he is the political liberator par excellence –come to do away with all injustice, replacing evil structures with better ones.

For others, he is an alienation from all worry and stress, a comfortable refuge, not to be sullied by the harsh reality of daily life.

For others yet he is the misinterpreted, the misunderstood, the one who needs to be re-read, re-studied and re-examined, and liberated from the ultra conservative or ultra liberal (depending where you stand) all in the name of –ultimately- furthering a personal agenda, which would have much more gravitas if Jesus himself were in my corner.

For others he is a memory, a tamed substitute for the fire that once burned within. For others, he is forgotten all together.

A friend of mine once sent me a text message from the fourth floor of Sloan Kettering Hospital in Manhattan, where she had just undergone cancer surgery, it read: “J.C. Should come here 2 ask everyone on this floor ‘Who do u say I am?’ Would love 2 hear the answers!”

The question is asked of all of us, especially in moments of difficulty or crisis.

What is your answer?

Fr. Sean