

Sermon Title: *Who are our heroes?*

- **St Peter's Feast Day:** The sermon reflects on Peter's journey from an impetuous fisherman to a foundational leader in the early church, using readings from Matthew 16, John 21, and Acts 4.
- **Peter's Story Arc:**
 - Begins as a bold, outspoken follower of Jesus.
 - Denies Jesus at His trial (Maundy Thursday).
 - Is lovingly restored by Jesus at the Sea of Galilee (John 21).
 - Transformed by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost into a courageous, gospel-preaching leader (Acts 4).
- **Boldness through the Spirit:** Peter always had courage, but the Holy Spirit redirected that boldness toward God's mission, giving him deeper understanding, humility, and selflessness.
- **Heroes vs. Saints:**
 - Cultural heroes (sports stars, artists, superheroes) achieve greatness through strength and skill.
 - Saints rely not on their own power, but on God's Spirit working through them.
 - Peter exemplifies this transition—from respected hero to Spirit-empowered saint.
- **Ordinary Saints Among Us:** Saints are not just historic figures like St Teresa of Calcutta, but everyday people around us—faithful, prayerful, and Spirit-filled.
- **Personal Challenge:**
 - Each of us is called to be more than a hero—to be a saint.
 - The Holy Spirit is still active and available to those who ask.
 - What might the Spirit be prompting you to do?
 - We are encouraged to reflect this week on *how we are being called to be saints* in our own lives and communities.

Questions

1. **"Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15)**
 - How does Peter's answer to Jesus shape our understanding of discipleship? What does it mean to truly "get" who Jesus is?
2. **Peter's denial and restoration (John 21:15–17)**
 - How do you relate to Peter's journey from failure to forgiveness and restoration? What does it show us about grace and second chances?
3. **The transformation at Pentecost (Acts 4)**
 - What difference did the Holy Spirit make in Peter's life? Have you ever experienced—or longed for—that kind of transformation in your own life?
4. **Heroes vs. Saints**
 - The sermon contrasts secular "heroes" who triumph through strength with saints who rely on God. What does this difference reveal about Christian identity and calling?
5. **Ordinary Saints**
 - Who are the "ordinary saints" in your own life or community? What makes them stand out as examples of faith or spiritual courage?
6. **Your own calling**
 - The sermon challenges us to ask, *"In what ways are you called to be a saint?"* What might the Holy Spirit be prompting in you today—and what boldness might you need to step into it?