

Reflections on 21st Sunday of Year 26A.

Mass: Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 137; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20.

When I first lived in a house of stone, I realised that it was very different from the normal that I had been used to. It somehow felt solid and old and made funny noises, especially during the night! It could be very cold in the winter and very hot in the summer, something you had to get used to. I also realised how important good foundations were because such houses were so heavy. It was the same with the churches, especially those with high towers. My present church was placed here because the tower could stand on rock, and everything was built around that. We take such foundations and buildings for granted often not realising how much work went into making them secure. Our lives are like that, except that we know that we are very insecure, our frail lives need to constantly seek some security to exist. Jesus tells Simon that he has found that security in not only knowing who Jesus is but acknowledging his role, the Christ. This is a statement of trust in Jesus and his faith becomes his rock. That rock will take time to form, and it will take the love that grows before it can sustain the other disciples. Rock doesn't come ready made, it has to be formed in the fire of creation, that fire we call love. Our faith in Christ is still sustained by the fire of Peter's love for Jesus, made real today in the love of our Holy Father we call Francis. Don't take it for granted!