

22nd Sunday Ordinary Time
30 August 2026 – Cycle A



THERE IS ROOM FOR EVERYONE IN YOUR EMBRACE

FEAST OF MARÍA RÀFOLS

A day of grateful remembrance – Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne

Today's Word takes us to an uncomfortable place: it speaks to us of a voice that cries out, even when it does not wish to speak, of a fire that burns within and cannot be extinguished. It also speaks to us of a thirst that no success, no screen, no 'like' can quench. And it asks something very specific of us: not to go through the motions, but to put our whole selves – our

time, money, networks, work – at the service of something worthwhile. Jesus puts it bluntly: whoever tries to save their life will lose it; whoever gives it up will truly find it. Today, too, we remember Blessed Maria Ràfols, who, alongside Father Juan Bonal, gave shape to this very same logic: she gave her life to serving and caring for people, and in doing so found it fulfilled. Her memory, at the very heart of this Gospel, challenges us as a community: we do not come here to hear something nice, but to allow ourselves to be stirred together, to ask ourselves what we are willing to lose in order to truly gain.

SONG. SERTRES AND CARLOS SEOANE

<https://youtu.be/CrQVRvSxT9I?si=EMgNKBM0FTCSmGE4>

GOSPEL – MATTHEW 16:21–27

«From that time on, Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the scribes, and that he must be killed and rise again on the third day. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘Far be it from you, Lord! That will 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 not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men! Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his life? Or what can a man give in exchange for his life? ‘For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of his Father, with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to their deeds.»

TO DEEPEN THE WORD

Jer 20:7–9. Through his obedience to the divine will, Jeremiah is a striking figure of Christ, who was obedient to God even unto death.

Psalms 62:2–9. God reveals himself to those who seek him. He comes to the aid of those who turn to him, comforts them and fills their hearts with joy.

Rom 12:1–2. If there is a disconnect between the way one actually behaves in daily life and one's worship, religious practice veers towards formalism and morality degenerates into moralism.

Matthew 16:21–27. This account follows Peter's memorable profession of faith, which we considered last Sunday: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Here, Jesus accepts—at least implicitly—Peter's recognition of him as the Messiah. Immediately afterwards, Jesus sets out his plan, which in no way corresponds to the idea people had of the Messiah at that time: 'From that moment on, Jesus the Christ began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly...' Jesus speaks of suffering greatly and of being condemned to death! Peter is somewhat right to rebel. Like many of his contemporaries, Peter was expecting a Messiah-king—glorious, powerful and capable of driving the Roman forces occupying Jerusalem out of the city once and for all. It is only natural that what Jesus proclaims should seem unacceptable. For his part, Jesus regards this spontaneous rejection by Peter as a genuine temptation for himself and responds vehemently:

'Get behind me, Satan! Your thoughts are not God's thoughts but those of men! Yes, we must allow the Spirit to transform our thoughts—and sometimes to overturn them completely—if we are to remain faithful to God's plan. The disciples, with rare exceptions, had envisaged a powerful, triumphant Messiah; yet Jesus stands at the opposite pole to these fine expectations because God's plan, as we know, is **nothing other than the salvation of the world—that is to say, the birth of a new humanity, one that will live solely on tenderness and compassion, in the image of God himself.**

I PRAY WITH THE WORD

God's ways are not our ways; what Peter wants is not what Jesus and the Father want. How can we live out discipleship according to what Jesus wants? 'If anyone wishes to come after me...' What do I need to change in my life to follow the path that Jesus invites us to take?



SLEEPING ON CLOUDS

https://youtu.be/duNQoT6WHGo?si=fNPNxUU_RLiy-TA-

AN EMBRACE WITHOUT LIMITS

Lord of Life,
today I do not come to ask
for peace of mind.
I come with the restlessness
that gives me no peace.

The Word cries out
your name today
even though it is hard to hear.
I, too, carry within me
a voice that will not be silenced.

I am thirsty,
not for water,
but for something real, tangible
that cannot be bought
or be filtered.

Teach me not to conform,
not to follow the easy path,
to think differently
when everyone else
thinks the same.

The cross is not a punishment,
it is the form that love takes
when it commits itself.

María Ràfols understood this,
she opened her arms
to nameless children,
to wounded minds,
to broken bodies,
to everyone who caught her eye.
She gave her life in this way,
entirely, and found it.

We need concrete gestures,
that speak for themselves,
not clichéd, pretty phrases,
the sort that sound good.

I want to share
something of my own,
to be there for someone
who's alone,
to tell the truth, even if it's hard.

May your words flow
from your head to your chest,
and from there move
our hands in circles
—open, inclusive, fraternal.

SONG. YOUR IDEAL WAS LOVE – SCSA

<https://youtu.be/IJ5PySuFZ74?si=-Gp9TqjPLXrWKzBd>

MARÍA RÀFOLS, A LIFE SURRENDERED OUT OF LOVE – SCSA

<https://youtu.be/aEhLuk4kZgA?si=rWarS1KNh1AtmD0l>



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