

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway Stavanger Congregation

Stavanger Anglicans' website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8466/>

Stavanger Anglicans on Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/stavangeranglicans/>

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*30 August 2026
13th Sunday after Trinity*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 3.1-15

Romans 12.9-end

Matthew 16.21-end

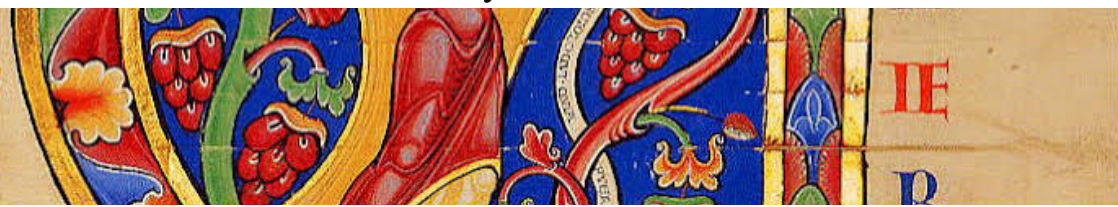
Reflection

“Peter, Please Mind Your Business!”

My dear brothers and sisters, today we meet Peter — the disciple who always seems to have something to say! Peter is the kind of person who, when nobody has asked for his opinion, still gives it very confidently.

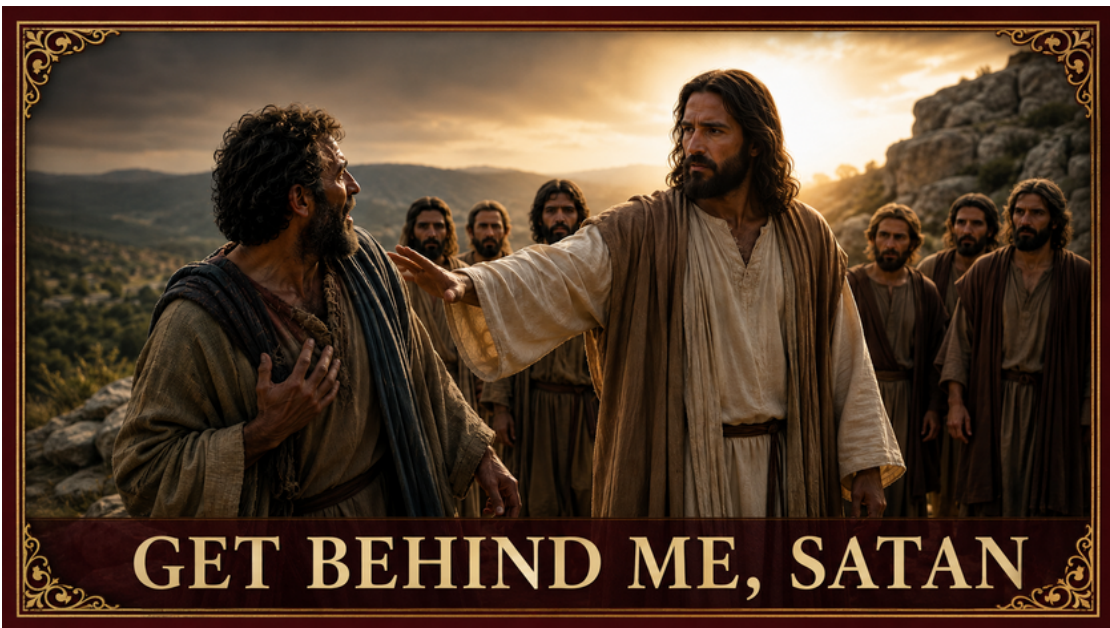
In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed, and be raised again. Peter immediately takes Jesus aside and says, “Never, Lord! This shall never happen to you!”

Peter means well. He loves Jesus. He wants to protect Him. But Jesus turns to Peter and says, “Get behind me, Satan!” That sounds a little harsh! Imagine going to church, trying to encourage the priest after the sermon, and the priest responds, “Get behind me, Satan!” You might decide to attend online next Sunday!



But Jesus is teaching Peter something important: good intentions are not always the same as God's intentions. Sometimes, even when we think we are helping, we can actually stand in the way of God's plan.

Let me illustrate this with a story.



John sells his house to Matthew. However, there is a mango tree growing on the property. John tells Matthew, “When you buy the house, the mango tree is not included.” Matthew agrees and buys the house. So technically, the house belongs to Matthew, but the mango tree still belongs to John.

Now John comes regularly to water his beloved mango tree. Sometimes he even puts raw manure around it — and, brothers and sisters, the smell is enough to make Matthew question the entire purchase!

But when the leaves fall into Matthew's yard, John disappears. When the branches grow through Matthew's windows, John is nowhere to be found.

And when the neighbours complain about the branches and leaves, they shout at Matthew: "Why don't you cut your tree?"

That mango tree is a little like some of the problems we Christians carry. Sometimes we want the blessing without the responsibility, the fruit without the pruning, and the title without the work!



**BLESSING HAS A PRICE:
PRUNING, RESPONSIBILITY & WORK.**

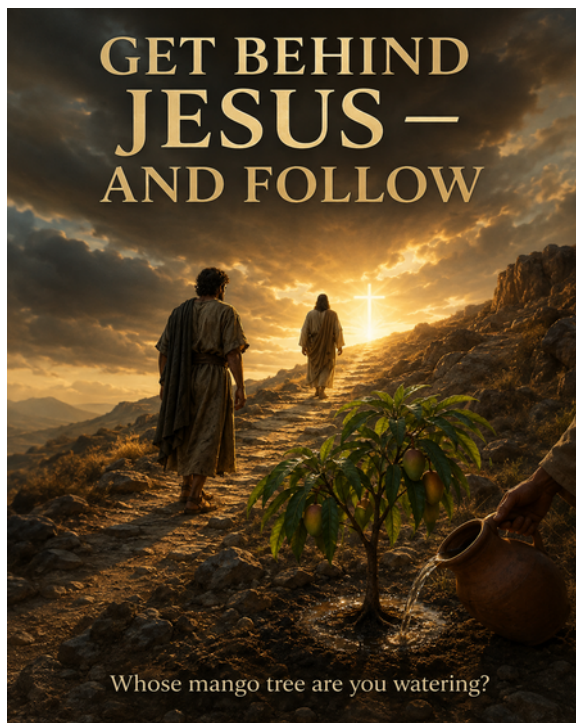
Peter wanted Jesus to avoid suffering because he loved Him. But Jesus reminds him that following Him means accepting the whole journey — not just the beautiful parts.

As Christians today, we must ask ourselves: Am I trying to control God's plan, or am I willing to follow Him even when the road is difficult?

And perhaps we should also ask: Whose mango tree am I watering?

May God give us the wisdom to know when to speak, when to listen, when to act — and when simply to get behind Jesus and follow Him.

Amen.



Contacts and Connections



For pastoral needs,
Baptisms
Blessing of Civil
Marriages
Funerals
Please contact the
Assistant Chaplain

Father Martin

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Safeguarding concerns, workshops,
or Safe Church enquiries: Please
contact Jane, who will be happy to
assist.

**Acts of Mercy - fundraising,
donations, or finances: contact Rumi**

+4796837193

Email: talk2rumi@yahoo.com

For website enquiries, please contact Sarah +4798543363

Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;

through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



Notice

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

We are back at Menighetshus,
where we must pay rent.

Our finances are not looking good.
Please help us by making a donation.

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Every gift, large or small, makes a difference.
Thank you for your generosity and support.

