



Based on the gospel for Sunday 30 August: Matthew 16:21-27

“Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Only moments after Peter's profound declaration that Jesus is the Son of God, he reaches a new low as he tries to turn Jesus away from his impending suffering and death.

Peter earns a sharp rebuke. Earlier he had allowed the Spirit to speak to his heart and reveal who Jesus really was. But now, so quickly, he is listening to a different voice.

Of course, Peter does not want to see his beloved master suffer and die. But then, he always did cling to the glory times. Peter famously wanted to build tents on Mount Tabor to prolong the experience of Jesus' transfiguration.

I do the same. I avoid the painful or even the mildly uncomfortable. I want to stay in the glorious moments.

Today's gospel is a sharp reminder that reality cannot be avoided. Christianity is not a duvet protecting us from life.

It is a vocation, a calling to enter life in all its fullness and messiness. To transform life from the inside with faith, hope and joy – despite everything. When we meet someone who is truly living that way, it inspires us.

All CAFOD staff have their own stories of inspiring people who are living with poverty and injustice, yet continue to welcome the stranger, share with their neighbour and build communities of hope.

Peter went on to embrace life, living bravely to the last heartbeat as Jesus did. He and the disciples began to transform the world. May we continue that mission.

Lord, when I am faced with something I'd rather not do, help me to see it through your eyes. May my response to life's challenges inspire others and transform the world around me. Amen.



## Care of Creation

1 September is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Join us to pray for our common home.

Let's pray



## Back to school

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## Cancel the debt

Use your voice to show that debt isn't something the international community will stand for.

Act now

This reflection and prayer were written by Kathleen O'Brien from our Schools Team.

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