

## **Motivation for Mt 16:13-20**

Before you listen to the Gospel, I want you to think about “beginnings”. You may be praying this Lectio at the beginning of the week... or thinking about the beginning of September, which from Sunday will be nearly upon us, and for some of you herald a new academic year, or a beginning at work again after the holidays. Beginnings make me think of a classic line in teenage pop songs: ‘the first day of the rest of your life’. What does this make you think about, the fact that the rest of your life is unfolded before you like an immense red carpet? Perhaps you are uncertain, doubtful or afraid? Or maybe you live in anticipation of the excitement that the unknown brings. Maybe you are indifferent...

I would like you to put on the glasses, or look through the lens, of HOPE when contemplating the Gospel in a minute. Or another image, I invite you to “wake up”! And let the Lord shine his light onto the path you are treading. This is a Gospel about beginnings, and a very important beginning because it sets the tone for, and even makes possible, the gathering of us all together in prayer now.

So get ready! This is the first day of the rest of your life; you are on the road to your future, on the path to God. He is not in the distance though, an invisible goal. Christ is walking along beside you. Will you recognise him now in this Gospel, cheering you on? What does the Lord want to share with you today? What light does he give you for your way? What is the Good News of him that he wants you to discover? Prepare your heart to listen to Him...