



WORD OF THE WEEK Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the side of a mountain and sat down.
Jesus' disciples gathered around him, and he taught them:

Happy are those people who depend only on him.

They belong to the kingdom of heaven!

Happy those people who grieve.

They will find comfort!

Happy are those people who are humble.

The earth will belong to them!

Happy are those people who want to obey God more than
to eat or drink.

They will be given what they want!

Happy are those people who are merciful.

They will be treated with mercy!

Happy are those people whose hearts are pure.

They will see him!

Happy are those people who make peace.

They will be called his children!

Happy are those people who are treated badly for doing right.

They belong to the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you
because of me. Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward in heaven. People did these
same things to the prophets who lived long ago.

SOMETHING TO DO

Read the beatitudes again,
and pick one that will
challenge you this week, one
that you are going to try and do
and living out, even if that
means not going with the
crowd. Write that beatitude
in your planner to remind
yourself of your
challenge this
week.

GOING AGAINST THE CROWD- SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Friday is the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. These two men were, and still are, two key figures in the Church. They are two men that didn't go with the crowd, gave up everything, even changed their names to follow Jesus, and to do His work. We are each called to be saints, and to try to live out these beatitudes like SS Peter and Paul did.

St Peter was a fisherman called Simon, but Jesus called him to lead the Church. He left his fishing business behind, his family, his crowd of friends and followed Jesus. Simon didn't think he was good enough for the task he had been given and made a few mistakes along the way but Jesus inspired him to keep trying and he did. Jesus called Simon Peter, meaning the rock, and declared that on him the Church would be built, not literally but with Peter as the leader of the Church and an example for the Church. St Peter was the first Pope.

St Paul was known as Saul before his conversion to believing in Jesus. He used to go around with a crowd of people who used to catch and kill Christians. One day when he was on a road heading for a place called Damascus he had a vision of God and a bright light blinded him for 3 days. This was the moment he realised he had been doing everything wrong and he needed to change his ways and follow Jesus, leaving his crowd of friends behind and become a Christian.

Following Jesus should inspire us to change for the better, to see how we should be acting according to God's will. Sometimes that might mean going against the crowd.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Can you think of a time when you were torn between doing the right thing or the wrong thing, and sticking with the crowd and what the crowd were doing? Has there been a time when you should have done something or said something but it would have meant risking our own popularity? Has this been at the expense of another person, maybe not sticking up for them or helping them?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God our Father,
help us to be faithful to you,
like St Peter and St Paul.
Inspire us to follow you and to share
our faith with others through our
actions and our words.
We ask this prayer through Christ our
Lord. Amen.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Friday is the feast of **Saints Peter and Paul**. It is a special holy day when all Catholics are expected to attend Mass to give thanks for St Peter and St Paul. There is a Mass on Thursday evening at 6.15pm at St Teresa's Church for this important Feast.

