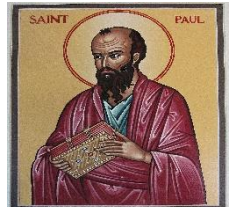


The Feast of St Peter and St Paul



Word of the Week

Matthew 16:13-19 Peter

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, *'Who do people say the Son of man is?'* And they said, *'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'* *'But you,'* he said, *'who do you say I am?'* Then Simon Peter spoke up and said, *'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'* Jesus replied, *'Simon, son of Jonah, you are a blessed man! Because it was no human agency that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my community. And the gates of the underworld can never overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'*

Galatians 1:11-20 Paul

Now I want to make it quite clear to you, brothers, about the gospel that was preached by me, that it was no human message. It was not from any human being that I received it, and I was not taught it, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have surely heard how I lived in the past, within Judaism, and how there was simply no limit to the way I persecuted the Church of God in my attempts to destroy it; and how, in Judaism, I outstripped most of my Jewish contemporaries in my limitless enthusiasm for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart from the time when I was in my mother's womb, called me through his grace and chose to reveal his Son in me, so that I should preach him to the gentiles, I was in no hurry to confer with any human being, or to go up to Jerusalem to see those who were already apostles before me. Instead, I went off to Arabia, and later I came back to Damascus. Only after three years did I go up to Jerusalem to meet Cephas. I stayed fifteen days with him but did not set eyes on any of the rest of the apostles, only James, the Lord's brother. I swear before God that what I have written is the truth.

Reflection

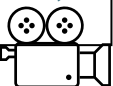
St Peter and St Paul lived nearly two thousand years ago, but their stories speak powerfully in the world today. Peter was impulsive, emotional, and sometimes scared. He got things wrong — badly. He denied Jesus, doubted himself, and often felt out of his depth. Yet Jesus didn't give up on him. He saw Peter's potential even when Peter couldn't see it himself. We see this here when Jesus acknowledges Peter as the Rock even when he knows that he will deny him in future events. Peter reminds us that failure isn't final. You can make mistakes, lose confidence, or feel overwhelmed and still become someone strong, brave, and full of faith. God works with real people, not perfect ones. Peter was the rock upon which God's kingdom was built.

Paul was completely different. He was confident, clever, and determined, but he used his energy in the wrong direction until he encountered Jesus. That moment on the road to Damascus changed everything. Paul didn't let his past define him. He let God transform him into someone who brought hope to others. Paul reminds us that change is possible. You can grow, start again, and choose a new direction. Your past doesn't have to decide your future. Like Paul we can recreate ourselves into the best people that God wants us to be. We too can help build God's kingdom here on earth by following in the footsteps of Peter and Paul.

[Who are Saints Peter and Paul? June 29th Solemnity](#)

[Rend Collective - Build Your Kingdom Here OFFICIAL](#)

[Teaching With The Chosen: Who Do You Say That I Am, Matthew 16:13-19](#)



Prayers for the Week

Lord Jesus

You chose Peter when he felt weak and unsure. Give us the courage to stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult. Help us to trust in You just as Peter did. Help us follow Peter's footpaths to build God's Kingdom.

Amen

Dear God

Peter denied Jesus yet he was forgiven completely. Teach us to say sorry when we fail and to forgive others with open hearts. Remind us that we are not perfect, yet we can strive to build God's kingdom here on earth whilst learning from our mistakes.

Amen

Dear Lord

You sent Paul to share the Gospel with the world. Help us to use our words, actions and choices to spread kindness, truth and hope.

Amen

Dear Lord

Paul faced danger, hardship and challenge yet he never gave up. Give us resilience when schoolwork, friendship or life feels tough.

Amen



Think! What can you do to build God's Kingdom in our school and in our community? What would change in our school if everyone acted with the courage of Peter and the kindness of Paul?

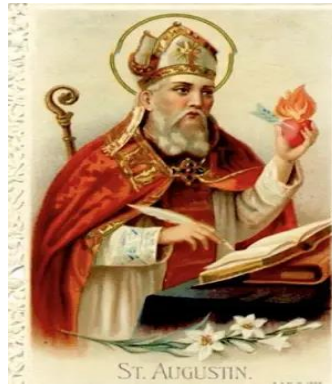
Actions for the week ahead

Be like Peter who showed actions of courage and faith

- Stand up for someone who is being left out or spoken about unkindly
- Speak honestly even when it is difficult
- Show loyalty to your friends and family
- Pray for guidance when you feel unsure

Be like Paul who showed actions of mission and love

- Encourage someone who is struggling
- Share positivity by giving one compliment or kind message each day
- Include someone new in your group or conversation
- Do one brave act of kindness for someone who won't expect it



"Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one..."

Interesting Facts

St Peter:

- 1) Peter's name was originally Simon (he is only addressed as Simon two times in the Gospels) and he was a fisherman of Galilee.
- 2) He was one of the first four apostles chosen. His brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus.
- 3) He struggled with doubt and human weakness, yet Jesus still chose him.
- 4) He was the first Pope. The Catholic Church can trace the succession of every pope back to St Peter.
- 5) He died by crucifixion – he requested an upside down crucifixion because he considered himself unworthy to die the way Jesus did. Saint Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb.

St Paul:

- 1) Before he was named Paul his name was Saul. He was a Jewish Pharisee who persecuted Christians in Jerusalem.
- 2) He experienced a conversion experience on the road to Damascus whilst he was on his way to persecute the early Christian community. He was baptised and dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel after this experience.
- 3) He was imprisoned and executed under Emperor Nero.
- 4) His letters are in the New Testament and shed light on the faith in the early Church.
- 5) He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls.
- 6) Saint Paul is the patron saint of missionaries and evangelists.

