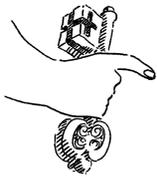


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR SOLEMNITY OF SS PETER & PAUL



Sunday Catholics?

What is religious freedom? It probably means something a bit different for everybody. For most it means the freedom to develop our faith in an atmosphere of support and respect. It might mean, the freedom to promote what we believe whilst respecting the religious freedoms of others. It means valuing the work of our ancestors and of the saints that have gone before us who lived and even died so that we might have choices. It is important, particularly on this the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul, that we do our utmost to protect the religious freedoms of Christians in other countries. We are hearing on the news more and more of Christians who are persecuted, murdered, abducted and displaced. We hear on a daily basis of the many thousands of Christians who have been driven out of their homes and communities. If Saints Peter and Paul were around today they would wonder why we were allowing it to happen.

In today's gospel Jesus turns to Peter and says, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." Whether Jesus' idea of 'Church' is our idea of 'Church' is debateable, but one thing is for sure, Jesus intended to leave behind a group of followers initially led by Peter, united in their belief of Jesus and God until the end of time. Because Peter recognised that God was acting through Jesus, he was entrusted with the job of leading the rest of us. The Church today is a testimony to Peter's faith, it exists because Peter and others like him trusted and believed in God. It exists because Peter and people like Peter acted out their faith despite hostilities and persecution. Do we fully appreciate how useful we could be as part of the Catholic Church? Do we appreciate how much good we can do? How sad if our faith was just about going to church on Sunday. If Saints Peter and Paul were around today would they be closeted up in the front room watching 'Songs of Praise', or would they be out there supporting our Catholic Aid agencies and bombarding our governments.

There is much suffering and pain. We were never promised an easy ride in this world, in fact Saint Paul wrote the following to the Church in Corinth. "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

PARISH PRAYER - Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service; that your love might grow among us and your Kingdom come. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

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Notre Dame High School, Norwich Website: <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

28TH JUNE 2015 – SOLEMNITY OF SS PETER & PAUL

Weekend Masses – Page 172 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	John & Ivy Jones
Sunday	9.00 am	
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses –

Setting: *Dom Gregory Murray Mass with intercessional Kyrie*

Processional: 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 372 - By all your saints still striving (*with 'Peter & Paul' verse for verse *2)* ..

Offertory: Hymn 887 - God, whose almighty Word ..

Communion: *Sacred silence*

Recessional: 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 962 – Firmly I believe and truly ..

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the coming week (13th Week in Ordinary Time) (*Psalter Week 1*)

Mon.	10.00 am	Josie Waring - Feria
Tues.	No Mass today	Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	St Thomas the Apostle
Sat.	10.30 am	Feria
	6.00 pm	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Anniversaries this week: Barry McGrath, Fernando Sentieriro, Anthony Joseph O'Connor, Richard Downing, Leslie Neve and Fred Hawkins. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Money Matters (*O yes, it does!*) – The collection last weekend was £468.31. Thank you very much. Today there is a retiring collection for Peter's Pence.

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call St John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615). If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are asked to renew their commitment for another year's service at each Mass this weekend.

First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, July 12th at the 11.00 a.m. Mass. Please note that there will have to be some reserved seating at the front of the church.

Confirmation – Bishop Alan said that he would like to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation when we had candidates suitably prepared. It is time to put this on our agenda. There is a lower age limit. Year 8 is being suggested as the lowest age and, of course, there is no upper limit for Confirmation. I would like to suggest to those younger people among us who have not been Confirmed to consider taking this important step in their Christian life. The most important thing at this stage is to avoid the sense of 'being done'. It is a personal step and it has to be appropriate for the person concerned to be Confirmed or not to be Confirmed. Please think about it and pray for guidance on this issue.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – I am aware that we have not had Exposition since I came here in January. I have been trying to find a time that is right. I would appreciate suggestions. I think 30 minutes of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is about right, but when? Before Mass? After Mass? At another time? I used to have Exposition before a lunchtime Mass and that worked well. Please put your thinking caps on and try to think of others.

Saint Thomas the Apostle - 3rd July - 'Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the "sons of thunder," Philip and his foolish request to see the Father—in fact all the apostles in their weakness and lack of understanding. We mustn't exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points out the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting and loving one.'

The Tablet: 1840-2015 - This year the Tablet marks 175 years since its first edition - The current editor of The Tablet is Catherine Pepinster, who was formerly executive editor of The Independent on Sunday. Appointed in 2004, she is the paper's first female editor. She said in her first Tablet leader that the journal will continue to provide a forum for "progressive, but responsible Catholic thinking, a place where orthodoxy is at home but ideas are welcome." Read an online version at www.thetablet.co.uk or subscribe to the print or digital edition.

Laudato Si - Tackling climate change is part of our duty as Christians to love and care for God's creation; it's an important dimension of our stewardship of the earth. Our sisters and brothers across the world are being pushed deeper into poverty due to the changing climate and our faith moves us to speak out in solidarity. In '*Laudato Si*' Pope Francis calls on all of us to care for the world's poorest people, for future generations and for the earth, our common home. Inspired by his words, we join with Catholics worldwide, as part of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, and call on our Prime Ministers and on other world leaders to take urgent action to prevent climate change pushing people deeper into poverty. **To do:-** Call on David Cameron to show leadership on climate change. Sign the online petition at www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/One-Climate-One-World/climate-petition

"Be Still" days in June/July at Clare Priory - Tuesday 30 June and Thursday 2nd July - "Silent Prayer changes the way we see things." - The programme will be identical on both days, so book for the day that suits you. Each day begins at 9.30 am and ends at around 3.30 pm. During the morning we will hear a witness testimony from Simon Knight. He will share with us something of the transforming power that silent prayer has brought into his life. To use his own words ... "I used to be something of a self righteous Pharisee." A soup lunch is provided and the cost is £20.00. Please book through Kathy 01787 277326.

A weekend with a difference at Clare Priory July 24th to 26th - "Discovering God in Shimmering Creation" - Through poetry and the psalms we will reflect upon God's amazing creation. For further information and to book a place (residential or daily) please phone Kathy at Clare Priory 01787 277326.

Bite Size

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow."

Mary Anne Radmacher