

Theme of the Week - St Peter and St Paul

On Sunday we celebrated the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul. Apart from All Saints Day and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where both are Holy Days of Obligation, this is the only other Holy Day of Obligation given over to Saints. The earliest Roman Calendar recorded goes back to 350AD and it stated then that the 29th June should be given over to celebrate St Peter and St Paul. So we may ask why, why are these two men so special to the Church? It is because these two men are known as pillars of the Church. Peter, the shepherd, who governed from his chair in Rome was the first Pope of the Church. Whereas Paul, the Apostle, went out across nations to spread the news of Christianity through his letters and visits. These two men are the great early leaders of the Church.

This Solemnity reminds us of the need for diversity in vocations and ministries within the church. Neither of these two leaders could have achieved what they did without the help and assistance of numerous other women and men beside them. We can also imagine the difficulties, uncertainty and fear they may have come across when spreading the Good News of Christ. It is important then to acknowledge what was asked to Peter in Caesarea Philippi, **"Who do you say I am?"** (Matthew 16:13-15), Like Peter, we are called to a profound personal encounter with Christ, a revelation that transcends mere opinion. This intimate knowledge of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" must be the bedrock of our faith. Throughout their vocation the two men showed remarkable hope and love. Your decisions, rooted in Christ, have eternal significance for us as a school community and what we example. Embrace this profound responsibility with joy and courage, knowing that the "gates of the underworld shall never prevail against..." a school built on such a foundation. As we continue our pilgrimage in this Jubilee year, how can you be more **Faith-Filled** and **Hopeful** just as St Peter and St Paul were?

St Peter and St Paul

Weekly Reflections
30th June 2025
13th week in Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of Matthew 16: 13-19

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

We remember through pray St Peter and St Paul who have gone ahead of us in the journey of faith, running the race set before them, and holding firm to the end.

Grant to them and to us your eternal blessing.

Amen

Day 1

It what year is the earliest recording of the 29th June being a feast day for St Peter and St Paul?

Why are these two men so special within the church?

Day 2

What difficulties do you think St Peter and St Paul encountered in their ministry?
How can you be more Faith-Filled and Hopeful in your journey of faith?

Day 3

Jubilee year of Hope
Pledge - please see the PPT

Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15. We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet. Caring for the earth is integral to our task of tackling the scandal of global poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice and exclusion. Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources. The late Pope Francis said "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" Laudato Si' 13 and "...the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." Laudato Si' 159.

How this half term can you promote Stewardship in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?