

**THEME.** The final triumph of the apostles Peter and Paul is an encouragement to us. Peter, leader of the church, and Paul, preacher to the nations, overcame their natural weakness and God used them in building up his church. God will use us, too, if we are prepared to allow him.

### **PENITENTIAL RITE**

- Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we take our faith for granted and are lukewarm in its practice. Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy.**
- Forgive us for being unfaithful members of the church by failing to speak out or stand up to be counted for Christ. **Christ have mercy.**
- Forgive us Lord, for the times when we give way to depression or despair and give up too easily when trials come. **Lord have mercy.**

### **GLORIA**

**OPENING PRAYER** - *Let us pray that we may remain true to the faith of the apostles.* God our Father, today you give us the joy of celebrating the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul. Through them your church first received the faith. Keep us true to their teaching. Amen

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading – Acts 12 v. 1-11.** The story of Peter's arrest and deliverance has a miraculous note to it. A spirit of unity, support, care, concern and prayer pervades the first band of Christians.

**'King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.'**

**On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when**

**suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'**

**Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 33** ® **From all my terrors the Lord set me free.**

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise always on my lips;  
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. ®

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. ®

Look towards him and be radiant; Let your faces not be abashed

This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. ®

The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who revere him, to rescue them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good. He is happy who seeks refuge in him. ®

**Second Reading - 2 Timothy 4v6-8,17-18.** As he approaches the end of his life, Paul looks back on his ministry with a grateful heart. The glory to which he looks forward will also be given to all involved in this work. We were once those pagans who now believe.

**'My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.'**

**The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.'**

**Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!**

**Gospel - Matthew 16v.13-19** Peter identifies Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God and Jesus confers on him the ministry of leadership.

**'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 he is 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, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood 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 Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

**CREED: Nicene Creed**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Jesus has entrusted his church to the leadership of the apostles. On this feast of Saints Peter and Paul, let us ask the risen Lord to send his spirit on his present day apostles.

Reader: St. Peter was the rock on which Christ founded the Church. Let us pray for our Bishops - may they govern and guide God's church in the ways of faith

St. Paul was the church's fearless preacher. Let us pray for those who have devoted their lives in a special way to spreading the faith - for theologians, preachers and those who represent the church in the media of communications.

Let us pray for all missionaries throughout the world: that they may be renewed in their zeal and energy for preaching the Gospel Message today - especially we pray for the Additional Curates Society.

We pray for all people who are persecuted or discriminated against for their faith or beliefs.

Let us pray for all being ordained at Petertide. May they realise that the first requirements of their ministry is a deep personal love for Christ and his flock. We pray for Fr Garry Jenkins keeping the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination.

Father, we pray that we may all be true to our vocation and fulfil whatever task you have created for us.

We pray for the bereaved, especially Tina Pipe and Peter Routledge & families.

Let us pray for all whose bodies and minds are weak and diseased; for all around the world still suffering from the Covid-19 pandemic and for those who nurse and care for them. We pray especially for Nichola Berry, Ken Davis Maria Everett, Michael Denny, Janice Ross, Billy Carter, Jessica Mercer, Joan Hill, Ralph Lambert and Keith Forsdyke and for our parishioners in homes Hazel Lockwood, Margaret Maundrell, Cindie Lind and Judith Heard.

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may be received into the joys of the resurrection, especially Elizabeth Routledge, recently departed and Henry Allen, Evelyn Kitchen, Russell Fenning, Frank Taylor, Hilda Riley, Nancy Fenning, Herbert Spalding, Colin Skilling, Maldwyn Williams, Ron Abbott, William Hendry, Robert Knock, Ernest Rodwell, Rose Gable and John Sawyer, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Let us ask Mary to join us in our prayers that all Christians may share the spirit of St Peter & St Paul, those two pillars of the church: **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the**

fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

SILENCE

**All:** Lord God our Father, you sent your Son to save the world through the work of your church. May the example of Saints Peter and Paul who fought the good fight inspire your people today to proclaim the faith that comes to us from the apostles. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

### ACT OF SPIRITUAL HOLY COMMUNION

**Dear Lord, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you.**

### ANGELUS

### BLESSING ✕

#### Fr Philip Writes: Thought for this week

"Do not reckon with your own strength and resources; they will not suffice. Reckon with God, with His strength and resources – and you will discover they will always suffice for you."

#### Church open for private prayer

St Mary's church is open every day from 11.00 am [Friday:12.30pm] to 4.00 pm. You are welcome, but please maintain the strictest hygiene and distancing directions.

**\* Russell Pipe's funeral will take place on Friday at 11.00 am. Congregation inside church is limited only to those family members and readers invited by Tina. However, everyone else is welcome to follow the horse-drawn hearse leaving the Community Centre at approx. 10.40 am and to socially distance – first in the N. churchyard and afterwards to the churchyard extension - where the service and burial prayers will be broadcast by a PA system \***

#### Mass Readings this week: 13<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time (Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

**MON:** of Ss PETER & PAUL: Amos 2 v 6-10; 13-16. Matt 8v18-22

*or Sunday readings.* Intention: All Bishops

**TUE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Martyrs of Rome. Amos 3 v 1-8, 4 v11-12; Matt 8 v23-27.

Int: victims of abuse

**WED:** Amos 5 v 14-15,21-24; Matt 8 v 28-34. Intention: Ministry of deliverance

**THUR:** Amos 7 v 10-17; Matt 9 v 1-8. Int: For forgiveness and reconciliation

**FRI: ST THOMAS APOSTLE, MARTYR:** Eph 2 v 19-22; John 20 v 24-29.

Int: Bishop Norman

**SAT: St Elizabeth of Portugal** Amos 9 v 11-15; Matt 9 v 14-17

Int: Peace of the World

**Next Sun: 14<sup>th</sup> of Year A:** Zech 9 v 9-10; Rom 8 v 9, 11-13; Matt 11 v 25-30