

Reflection for St Peter & St Paul.

Why do we celebrate two such major saints together on the same day? It does seem strange given their prominence. They are probably the two most important saints to work for the spread of Christianity. Two very different people in reality. Peter was a strong leader, the Rock on which Jesus built his church. He was regarded as the first Bishop of Rome, or Pope as we know them today. Paul was a missionary who travelled widely spreading Christ's Gospel to many nations in the then known world. But they both ended up in Rome where they were both martyred by Nero for their faith at around the same time. Legend says the same day, but historical accounts say Peter in 34AD and Paul in 37AD. With their different gifts they complimented each other in how they established the Church of Christ which went on against great odds to overcome persecution and spread around the world.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Saints Peter and Paul:

"Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

Phil Baker



NEXT SUNDAY 06.07.25 St Thomas
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Habakkuk 2: 1-4
NT Ephesians 2: 19-end
GOSPEL John 20: 24-29



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St Thomas, Exeter

29th June 2025

St Peter & St Paul

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

310 Lord, for the years

138 For the fruits of his creation

560 Will you come and follow me

12noon Holy Baptism of Alex James Collins

Tuesday 1st July

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house

Wednesday 2nd July

10am Walsingham Mass

Thursday 3rd July

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd

Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

Friday 4th July

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 5th July

12noon Holy Baptism of Fenne Alexandra

Elliott



Collect

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 12: 1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the

hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17, 18

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 16: 13-19

Now 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, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Post Communion

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

We have finished revising the **Year's Mind list** as it had become rather lengthy. We recognize that it is a sensitive matter and all those currently on this list from the year 2000 have been retained automatically. We have tried to keep any other names that you have provided, and no names have been removed from the Book of Remembrance in the Church. If you are concerned, do please speak to Jenny Thomas.

Cleaning the Church Volunteers are needed. Areas can be cleaned whenever it suits as long as there are to least two people. Speak to Ian.

The House Group meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at Helen's house. They will be looking at selected Psalms. For details see Mic or Ian.

Baptisms and Marriages Please pray for all those who are being baptized during this season at St Thomas, and their families; and for couples being married here, their families and friends.

Fr David's last Sunday service is next Sunday 6th July when we will be celebrating our patronal festival St Thomas' Day and also the baptism of Reuban Darby. There will be a lunch in the Hall to celebrate David's time with us and to wish him well in his retirement. Everyone is invited to join the festivities.

