

Sunday Message

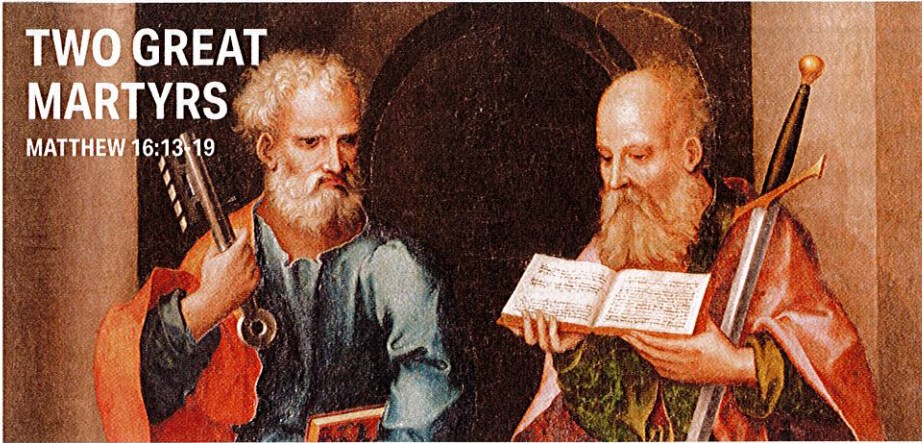
SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

THE WORD

Year C • 29 June 2025 • Psalter Week 1

TWO GREAT MARTYRS

MATTHEW 16:13-19



Jesus has been going around curing sick people and performing miracles, which has made him quite a celebrity. But he has also become a target, and those in authority are out to get him. They are trying to turn public opinion against him, and things are hotting up.

Jesus asks his disciples to be honest with him. He wants to know what people are saying about him. His friends are nervous and embarrassed. They fudge the issue and tell him only the good things.

Well, they begin, some say you are John the Baptist. Others that you are Elijah, while others think you're Jeremiah or one of the other great prophets.

But Jesus cuts to the chase: "What about you?" he says. "Who do you say that I am?"

While the others stop to think about their response, Peter rushes forth with the winning answer. For him, Jesus is no mere prophet or returned figure from the past. He is the Messiah, God's own Son, the one whose coming the scriptures had foretold.

For the first time, it seems the disciples are beginning to recognise who Jesus really is. But events then take an unexpected turn, which no doubt leaves Peter dumbstruck.

Jesus blesses Peter for his answer, and gives him authority in the community. Peter will be the unshakeable rock upon which Christ will build his Church, Jesus says, and will hold the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Peter, and later Paul, knew that Jesus was their Lord and Saviour. They spent their lives after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus preaching that Good News, building up the early Church. Both died in martyrdom. Both were instrumental in laying the foundations for the Church we have today.

That is why we honour them with today's Solemnity. Like Peter and Paul, we know who Jesus is and we too are called to make him known as best we can. ■

DO

Though leaders of the Church, Peter and Paul were both acutely aware of their faults and failings. They knew they were far from perfect. Think about your life. What are your failings? What do you need to do to be closer to God? From whom might you need to seek forgiveness?

SAY

"Lord, I know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

PRAY

Ask the Lord to help you to know who he is and to witness to him to the best of your ability, following the example of Peter and Paul.

LEARN

God sees the potential in everyone.

Each of us is called to build up the community of faith.

The Christian is never too proud to seek and accept forgiveness.

REFLECT

As leaders of the early Christian community, Peter and Paul were wonderful teachers and witnesses to the Gospel. They instructed people by their words and actions. They offer us some essential lessons, too.

They teach us about humility. Because we are human, we are not perfect. Despite our best efforts, we mess up, we make mistakes. Sometimes we make big mistakes. Peter and Paul made big mistakes, too. When Jesus was arrested, Peter denied that he even knew Jesus. He was afraid to stand up and be counted. Paul eagerly persecuted the early Christians. He wanted to destroy the Church, to wipe out the Jesus movement before it gained in popularity. Yet both Peter and Paul went on to lead the Church and both were instrumental in building it up. Each died a martyr's death.

They could easily have given up and walked away, embarrassed by their behaviour, or they could have doubled down, refusing to admit they had been wrong. Instead, they were humble enough to admit their mistakes, and to start over. They were humble enough to acknowledge their weaknesses and to learn from them. Peter and Paul teach us the importance of humility.

Peter and Paul also teach us about forgiveness. Because we are human, we can find it hard to forgive those who hurt us. We can also find it hard to forgive ourselves or to accept forgiveness when offered it. Both Peter and Paul had let God and themselves down badly. When they realised what they had done, they could have given into despair (as Judas Iscariot had), and regarded their situation as lost. They could have refused to believe that God would give them another chance, that redemption was possible. Instead, they trusted in God's mercy and love, and having experienced God's forgiveness, they were able to forgive themselves and to start over as men made whole again. Without believing in and accepting God's forgiveness, without allowing it to transform their lives, they could never have become the extraordinary saints and martyrs we celebrate today.

Peter and Paul teach us about the transformative power of forgiveness offered and accepted. God is always ready to forgive us. Like the apostles, we just need to believe and accept it. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*These are the ones who, living in the flesh,
planted the Church with their blood;
they drank the chalice of the Lord
and became the friends of God.*

COLLECT

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 12:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R. 5

R: From all my terrors the LORD set me free.

1. I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**
2. 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. **R.**
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,
and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**
4. The angel of the LORD is encamped
around those who fear him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him. **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, 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 deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 16:18

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord,
accompany the sacrificial gift
that we present to your name for consecration,
and may their intercession make us devoted to you
in celebration of the sacrifice.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
And Jesus replied: You are Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my Church.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, O Lord,
who have been renewed by this Sacrament,
so to live in the Church,
that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread
and in the teaching of the Apostles,
we may be one heart and one soul,
made steadfast in your love.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



St Patrick's Church
King Street
Wellington
TF1 3AP

THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco

M: 07447 632733 E: frravi.bosco@gmail.com

Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michał Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmew.org

Safeguarding & Parish Office: Moira Shrimpton M: 07540 723614

Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423

Our Lady of the Rosary
& St Luke's Church
Church Road, Trench
TF2 7HG

29 JUNE 2025

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR PETER'S PENCE

Sat	28th	17:30	Clare Kendrick RIP / Graeme Hawes 50 th Birthday	St Patrick's
Sun	29th	08:45	Mass in Polish	Our Lady's
Ss Peter & Paul		09:00	Dorothy & Mick Worpole & Family	St Patrick's
		11:00	Our Parishioners	St Patrick's
Mon	30th	Ferial		
Tues	1st	St Oliver Plunkett, Bishop & Martyr		
		12:00	Wayne Stansfield RIP	St Patrick's
Wed	2nd	Ferial		
		12:00	John Craig 3 rd Anniversary	Our Lady's
Thurs	3rd	St Thomas		
		13.30	Frances Spurway Funeral Mass	St Patrick's
		19:00	Sister Benedicta of Stanmore Abbey	St Patrick's
Fri	4th	Ferial		
		12:00	Giuseppe Sterlini RIP	St Patrick's
Sat	5th	17:30	Dennis Rowley Birthday Remembrance / Adam Bamber Ordination	St Patrick's
Sun	6th	No Mass in Polish		
	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:00	Colin Howard and Debbi Spence	Our Lady's
		11:00	Veronica Keys Anniversary	St Patrick's

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

RIP: Frances Spurway (Funeral 3 July 1.30pm).
Betty Hevican (Funeral 11th July 1.30pm at Telford Crematorium). We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time,

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1723.48 - Standing Orders £744.37 (£586.12 Gift Aided), Envelopes £363.41 (£274 Gift Aided), Loose Plate £615.71 (Not Gift Aided). We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

Bank details: St Patrick Wellington
Sort Code: 30-15-52 Account Number: 54546760

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

BAPTISMS Parents, along with Godparents, are strongly encouraged to attend at least one preparatory session before the celebration of the Sacrament. The next session will be on **28 June** at 12noon.

ROTAS

Sat 5.30: W: Martin & Mary **EM:** Anne **C:** Anne & John. **Next week: W:** Geraldine & Stephen **EM:** Gay **C:** Gay & Nicky
Sun 9: W: Phillip & Boobie **EM:** John **C:** Laura & Edith. **Next week: W:** Children **EM:** Catherine **C:** Bobbie/John/Nick
Sun 11: W: Jennifer & Paul **EM:** Jarmila **C:** Kate & Geraldine. **Next week: W:** Evangeline & Shreya **EM:** Anna **C:** Ann & Jane

Refreshments available after Mass every Sunday at OLoR. Monthly Coffee mornings at St Patricks will resume in September.

CHANGES TO POLISH MASS TIMES OVER SUMMER:

There is no Polish Mass on 6th & 13th July and 3rd & 10th August, and no Polish Masses on Fridays in July or August.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity (No.234025)

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

LIVESTREAM: Our Masses from St Patrick's are available online at <https://churchservices.tv/wellington>

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: We thank all those who have expressed their interest to visit the housebound with Holy Communion. Please contact the parish office for your DBS procedures and the piety stall for your communion pyx and prayer books, which can also be bought online.

After completing the formalities, Fr Ravi will discern along with you those whom you may be able to visit on a regular basis. Please follow the guidelines provided at the meeting. If parishioners are aware of any one who is unable to come to church due to health reasons, please ask them or their next of kin to contact the parish to arrange regular pastoral visits.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: We thank all our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for their ministry in our parish and we encourage them to commit to visiting at least one person regularly.

Those who attended the meeting on Saturday, 21 June were given a set of guidelines to guide them in the distribution of communion in church and in the pastoral care of the sick. If you were not at the meeting, please collect a copy of the guidelines from Fr Ravi.

A suggestion was made at the meeting that Communion under both kinds be introduced at our masses. This suggestion will be discussed at our next parish conversations.

Gluten-free hosts are available for anyone needing them.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: There is a meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 2nd at Our Lady's for anyone wishing to help to organise and assist with Parish events.

FAMILY MASS 6 JULY: Please speak to one of the Children's liturgy team after Mass if your child would like to read, serve or take part in the offertory at our Family Masses on Sunday 6th July. Servers need to have received their First Communion.

FAMILY BARBEQUE 6 JULY AT OUR LADY'S. Food will be available between 11am and 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be a tombola and games and there will be access to the Pirate Ship for primary aged children. There is no coffee morning after 11am Mass so perhaps you can meet your friends for a barbeque lunch.

MONTHLY ECUMENICAL GATHERING: Monday 7th July at 7pm at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood. Theme to be advised in due course

SVP SUMMER RAFFLE: Tickets will be available at Our Lady's after Mass next Sunday (29th June). Cost £1 each or a book of 5 for £5. First prize £5,000. Second prize £1,000. 15 prizes of £100. The Draw will take place on 25th Sept. Please support the work of SVP both nationally and locally in helping to relieve loneliness, isolation and poverty.

BINGO NIGHT: To be held at Our Lady of the Rosary & St Luke's Church on Friday 18 July at 7pm. Bingo tickets 20p a game. Tickets available from next weekend (£5) include Baked Potato supper with choice of filling, Primary school children £2
Please bring your own soft/wine drinks.
Tea/Coffee and squash will be available
There will be a raffle.

All proceeds to be divided between St Patrick's Poor Clare Mission in Myanga Kenya and Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

THE WEBELIEVE FESTIVAL takes place 25th – 28th July at Oscott College, Birmingham, the first such nationwide gathering of Catholic Life, involving a variety of ministries and speakers. It promises to be a truly wonderful occasion with opportunities for everyone to deepen their faith and create new friendships. Details available online at <https://www.webelievefestival.com/festival>

VOLUNTEERS: Please consider helping with the successful running of the church. We need more people who can count the collection after all Masses, **Children's liturgy helpers, car park stewards, readers and cleaners** in both churches, **flower arrangers and makers of refreshments at Our Lady's.** Please call or email the office if you can add your name to one of our rotas.

NEWSLETTER: We have been using the new format for newsletters since Advent. If you have any feedback after the first 6 months, please let us know. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, please let us know at ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com and we will add you to the mailshot. The pdf can be printed on a standard printer on A4 paper.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM (30th Sept - 3rd October 2025). Everybody has paid their £75 deposit. The remaining balance for each person will be as follows:
If travelling by coach - £279 (hotel) + £104 (coach) - £75 (dep paid) = £308
If not travelling on the coach - £279 (hotel) - £75 (dep paid) = £204

The balancing payments are due as follows:
If travelling by coach £133-25 (hotel) + £104 (coach) = £238- 25 by 31st July and £69-75 on checking out of the hotel.
If **not** travelling by coach £134-25 by 31st July and £69-75 on checking out of the hotel.

Payments may be made directly to the Our Lady's bank account using the reference Walsingham or by cheque or cash to Janet Beyer, or the Parish office during office hours.