



PARISH OF ST GEORGE

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SUNDAY 29th June 2025

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, apostles Year C

Peter

The first Pope and leader of the Apostles. His original name was Simon, but Jesus gave him the name "Peter," which is Greek, or "Cephas," which is the Aramaic equivalent. "Peter" and "Cephas" mean "the rock" (John 1:42). Such a name was appropriate to the strong character of the man, but the name became a supremely significant metaphor when Christ later made the dramatic assignment. "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18). What made the name distinctive as well was that neither "Peter" nor "Cephas" was ever used as a man's name. It was a career designation. There could be no question about the recognition of Peter's leadership. His name always appeared first in the listing of the Apostles (Mark 3:16). He and his brother were the first chosen. His name appears in the Gospels oftener than that of any other Apostle (Luke 5:10). He acted as their spokesman and whenever Jesus questioned them Peter responded in their behalf. He was present at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8). He was with Jesus when he raised Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:51). He was in Gethsemane during the Lord's agony (Mark 14:33). Jesus paid the temple tax for himself and Peter (Matthew 17:24-27). When Jesus disappeared from Capernaum, it was Peter who led the disciples in pursuit (Mark 1:36). It was Peter who objected to the washing of the feet (John 13:6-9). The angel in announcing the Resurrection said, "Go and tell the disciples and Peter" (Mark 16:7). Other instances from all four Gospels could be cited that make it clear that Peter's leadership was uncontested. After the Crucifixion it was Peter who directed the meeting to select a successor to Judas (Acts 1:15-26). When Paul and Barnabas attended the first council in Jerusalem, Peter presided and made the speech that silenced discussion (Acts 15:6-12). Through the early chapters of Acts he continues to exercise the leadership role. He was truly obeying the Master's valedictory injunction to "feed my lambs" and feed my sheep" (John 21:16-17). Peter revealed human shortcomings as well as strengths. He was rebuked by Jesus for misinterpreting the Messianic mission (Mark 8:33). His impetuosity was revealed in the garden when he attacked Malchus (John 18:10). He was bitterly ashamed of the cowardice he revealed in denying Jesus in the courtyard (Luke 22:54-62). But none of these human actions reduce the significance of the assignment he received when Jesus said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:19).

Paul

The most dynamic of Christ's Apostles, even though he was not one of the original twelve. His name was Saul, changed to Paul after his conversion. He was a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia and his family were Pharisees (Acts 22:3). Saul became a leader among the fanatical Pharisees and developed a reputation for ferocious enmity toward Christians (Acts 8:3). He was traveling on the road to Damascus (on an anti-Christian mission) when he was thrown to the ground and blinded by a dazzling light. Christ appeared to him and he was instantly converted. "What am I to do, Lord?" he asked (Acts 22:10). He spent a number of years in Arabia (Galatians 1:17). His status when he began to preach Christianity was awkward; the Pharisees considered him a turncoat; the Christians feared him because of his early reputation. Barnabas was especially helpful to him at this stage; he introduced him to Christian groups and vouched for his sincerity in both Antioch and Jerusalem (Acts 9:27). This association was so effective that the Church in Antioch commissioned Barnabas, as leader, and Paul and Mark as assistants to take a missionary voyage through Cyprus, Pamphylia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 13, 14). This led to a dramatic confrontation. Paul, Barnabas, and Titus proceeded to Jerusalem to urge a more flexible concept of a Christian than that of a circumcised Old Law Jew (Galatians 2). Peter presided. After all viewpoints were presented, Paul's own group won the day: Gentiles did not have to become Jews to become Christians (Acts 15:5-21). Then began Paul's second missionary journey. This time the journey took Paul through Phrygia, Galatia, Philippi, Thessalonica, and Beroea (Acts 18:23). Some of these visits were the first ventures into Europe of Christian apostles. There followed a third journey, through Macedonia and Greece. Only the wariness of his followers saved him from injury or death on several occasions (Acts 19:30). Especially venomous were the Jews in Jerusalem; his Roman citizenship saved his life several times. Some of his finest epistles were written during a two-year period while he was under house arrest awaiting trial. Death came to him finally in Rome during Nero's persecution by decapitation in about 67. He is buried near the present Basilica of St. Paul.

<u>Readers</u>	Sat 6:30	Sun 09:30	Sun 11:00
	Jo Williams	Eileen Livesey	Peculiar Chinagorom

If you wish to join the Reader's Rota, please complete the form in the porch.

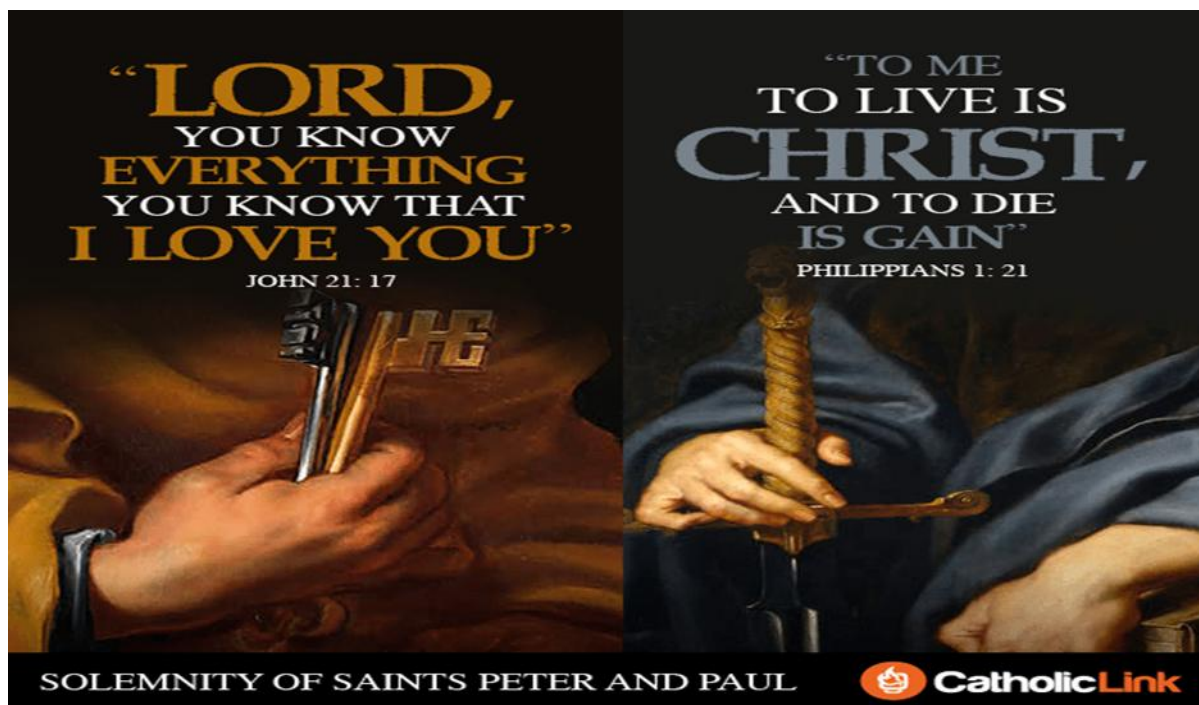
Confession is available before each vigil & Sunday Mass, before 6:00pm Mass on Friday & upon request

Sat 28 Jun	6:30 PM	Saint Peter and Saint Paul, apostles	Families of the parish
Sun 29 Jun	9:30 AM		Pope Leo XIV – successor of St Peter
	11:00 AM		Bishop Mark & all Bishops - successors of the Apostles
Mon 30 Jun	No Mass	The thirteenth week in Ordinary Time 1 st Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church	
Tue 1 Jun	No Mass	St Oliver Plunkett Martyr	
Wed 2 Jul	No Mass	Ferial	
Thu 3 Jul	No Mass	St Thomas Apostle (feast)	
Fri 4 Jul	6:00 PM	Friday in the 13 th Week in Ordinary Time First Friday Devotions	In reparation to & in love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat 5 Jul	6:30 PM	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	In reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sun 6 Jul	9:30 AM		Dennis Lloyd
	11:00 AM		For offences against the 3 rd Commandment

Weekly Collection We wish to thank you all for your ongoing generosity in the upkeep of the parish.

Sunday	22 June	-	£ 500.72
Weekly Standing Orders		-	£ 112.00

It would help greatly with paying in and processing at the bank if any cheques to the church are made payable to: **"St George Whitchurch"** which is the correct name for the parish account.



Our parish safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke.