

SOLEMNITY OF SS. PETER & PAUL, 28th JUNE 2020

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Today is the feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Here they are in this picture together. Who else is in the picture, I wonder?

Before they were called Peter and Paul, they had other names. What were they (clue: they both begin with S)? Who changed their names? I wonder why

You can see that Saint Peter is holding two keys in his right hand. Who gave them to him, do you think? To find the answer, go and see if you can find the Gospel of Saint Matthew in your family bible. Now open it at chapter 16 and go to verse 19.

You can also see that Saint Paul is holding a book in his left hand. He travelled a lot around a region called the Middle East. Can you spot the Middle East in your atlas? After he had visited people he would often

write them a letter. You can find some of them in the bible. They're a bit hard to read, but you might at least be able to see the names of them.

What are they holding up between them in the picture? I wonder why ...

They are standing in a place (which you can't see in the picture) which is a city that sits on seven hills. It's the city where they died for Jesus. What is the city?

How were they killed? What do you call someone who is killed for Jesus? What famous person lives in that city now?

Think of someone you know called Peter or Paul. Why not wish them a happy feast day or say a prayer for them?

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SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR
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Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee
PP's email: peter.magee@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Mass
YouTube (YT): Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am; Mon-Sat, 10am.

WEEKLY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

COMMEMORATION	READINGS
29/6: Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart	Week 13, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
30/6: First Martyrs of the See of Rome (d. 64 AD)	Week 13, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: red
1/7: St. Oliver Plunkett, Bishop & Martyr (d. 1681)	Week 13, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: red
2/7: Mass for 39 th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination, Mgr. Peter	Week 13, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
3/7: Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle	Proper Liturgical colour: red
4/7: Our Lady on Saturday	Week 13, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: blue
5/7: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Proper Liturgical colour: green

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 27 June, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 28 June, 10am	Marie McDermott
Mon 29 June, 10am	Harry Magee
Tues 30 June, 10am	Eileen Skelly
Wed 1 July, 10am	Theresa & Jim Beattie
Thurs 2 July, 10am	Special Intention
Fri 3 July, 10am	Esther West
Sat 4 July, 10am	Mary-Anne Dick
Sat 4 July, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 5 July, 10am	Brian Dougan

Sick: Margaret Gallagher, Maria Kelly (Millport), Lidia Tracy, Helen McShane, Peter Leitch, Colette McCafferty, Alex Greig, Sarah McDougall, Bruce McDougall, Jessie Clements, Baby Ava May Cleary, Teresa Black, Peter McConville, Claire McConville, Teresa Barrett, Lizzie Park, Ness Cranston, Francis Livingstone, Lorraine McBride, Tommy Monaghan, Marie Gómez Fernández, Margaret Rutherford, Martin

Doherty, Ben Brownlie, Sheena Lane, William Percy, Roddy Galbraith, Donal Hughes, Jonny Bilchak, James Reddoch, May Holland, Richard Dorman, Jessie Barr, Eileen Walker. **Anniversary of Death:** Marie McDermott, Theresa Beattie, Eileen Skelly, Mary & William Magee.

Special Anniversaries & Birthdays: Harry Magee (70th birthday on 28/6).

NOTICES

JULY: The month of July is traditionally dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. I encourage you to deepen this devotion in your own spiritual life, perhaps especially this July since reception of the Precious Blood will not be possible. Though it may not be possible to receive it in one sacrament, its saving power remains undiminished in us by virtue of the other sacraments we have received. None of the sacraments would have any power had His Blood not been poured out for us. To honour the Precious Blood is to honour your own salvation. Sing or recite the "Soul of my Saviour"!

DEVOTIONS & BENEDICTION: This Sunday at 6.30pm in honour of SS. Peter & Paul. Silent Exposition from 5.30pm. Ecumenical Prayer at 7pm, followed by Benediction.

FEAST OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE & FIRST FRIDAY: On Friday 3rd July, the First Friday, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. Devotion to him is especially important for anyone experiencing important doubts. Not just doubts about faith, but doubts of any kind, especially in terms of relationships and decisions about the future. At the end of Mass, we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, recite the Sacred Heart Novena prayers and recite the Litany of the Precious Blood. "Doubt no longer but believe!"

THURSDAY, 2nd JULY: Please spare a thought and a prayer for your parish priest on Thursday, as he celebrates 39 wonderful years (and steps!) of priestly ministry. I value most especially the prayers of our children and our sick because the Lord hears them with a special love. Thankyou in advance! Deo gratias!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: If anyone wishes to receive this sacrament, please phone or email me and we can set up a time and place to celebrate the sacrament in a "safe" manner.

PARISHES' ROSARY INTENTION: For a swift end to the coronavirus.

PRAYERLINE: To ask for prayers, phone: 078037 48251.

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GRADUATION OF P7, ST. MARY'S PRIMARY.

LARGS: This past Wednesday, 24th June, the children of Primary 7 had their graduation service via “zoom.” It was a delight to be able to participate in the event and offer a prayer and blessing. On behalf of the whole parish, we wish every child the brightest of bright futures in every which way! We especially wish them the grace and openness of heart to listen to the voice of the Lord Jesus as he accompanies them and guides them in the ways of his love and truth. Congratulations, too, to the whole school and to all parents and families who have pulled together so well during this tough time to keep the children safe, happy and engaged. Well done!

WEEKLY COLLECTION: If you are able, please put any contribution through the letter-box of either parish house. If you wish to set up a standing order via the bank, please contact the Mrs. Karen Govaerts, who will help you. Tel: 07542 570863.

SAFEGUARDING MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS:

For direct access to our Parish Safeguarding Coordinators: 1) Largs (Gordon Sutherland) – 07707 598929; 2) Millport (Donnie McGilveray) – 07852 753874.

SVDP PHONE NUMBER: 07950 586214. Please direct all enquiries and requests directly to this number.

BULLETIN: The next larger-sized bulletin will be for **5th July**. Requests for notices to be included in the weekly bulletin must be submitted by 12 Noon on **Wednesdays**.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER To Be Recited together at 7pm Sunday, 28th June

Living God, the God who creates,
You have made us in your image
That, in our giving and receiving,
We might better reflect your image.
For this gift we praise and thank you.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Living God, the God who gives,
Your gift to the world
Is revealed in your Son,
The image of the invisible God.
For the renewing presence of your Son, we praise and thank you.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Living God, the God who renews,
You call us to renew our relationships with one another
That, in so doing,

We might renew our relationship with you.
For the welcome you offer in renewal, we praise and thank you.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Living God, the God who welcomes,
You welcome us when we return to you
Weary and heavy laden.
Receive us as we are and forgive us when we stumble.
For the love we experience as we are welcomed, we praise and thank you.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Living God, the God who loves,
You offer us good gifts
And invite us to receive them.
In response, we offer our lives and all that we are.
For the sure promise of your love, we praise and thank you.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

NOVENA PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

All Parishioners are invited to say this prayer for nine consecutive days beginning on whatever day you choose. The Novena can then be repeated as long as necessary.

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father

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and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
suffering and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to thy patronage,
O most Holy Mother of God.
Despise not our prayers in our necessities
But ever deliver us from all dangers,
O most Glorious and Blessed Virgin!*

ORDINARY TIME FOCUS

With the celebration of SS. Peter & Paul today, we are ending the long period of major liturgical feasts and seasons which began on Ash Wednesday. Before the liturgical calendar was reviewed after Vatican II, the Sundays after Pentecost were called just that: “First Sunday after Pentecost”, “Second Sunday after Pentecost”, etc.. The review changed the numeration to “Ordinary Sundays of the Year.” Thus, next Sunday is the 14th such Sunday; the 12th of July will be the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and so on.

Some quibble as to which was the better denomination: “Sunday after Pentecost” or “Ordinary Time.” Either way, we will have about 20 Sundays between now and Christ the King (22nd November 2020) that will be called “Ordinary Sundays.”

Now, if truth be told, no Sunday is really ordinary in the, well, ordinary sense of the word! Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter itself, the Lord's Day, the Day of Resurrection. There is only really “one” Sunday, the Day of Resurrection. Every “other” Sunday makes the Day of Resurrection present. Or, better still, every “ordinary” Sunday catapults us into the eternal Sunday of the Resurrection.

By Christ's own will and by the Spirit's power, Sunday is already a foretaste of the Day of Resurrection, both of the original one and of the final one. They are really two manifestations of the same thing. The moment of Christ's rising “happened” historically on the third day after his crucifixion, yes.

But the Resurrection of Jesus was not confined to the moment it took place. His Resurrection was to eternal life. It introduced eternal life into the cosmos. Therefore, the historical moment it happened also opened out time out into eternity. This means that all Sundays, by Christ's will and the Spirit's power, make present to us in sign and sacrament the very Resurrection of Christ as it happened in history, and also the Day of Resurrection that will end all time.

That is why we speak of Sunday as the Day of rest. Our few hours' rest on Sunday anticipate in a small way the eternal rest of Christ after his Resurrection, the eternal rest in which the saints and the just already share. That is why “we cannot live without Sunday”, as some early martyrs of the Church put it, meaning that attendance at Mass, the sacramental commemoration of the death and Resurrection of Jesus, is dearer than life itself.

This is why Sunday is so precious and important, why Mass is our first obligation of faith, hope and love for our Risen and all-loving Lord. For the true Christian, Sunday can never just be “the weekend.” We cannot empty it of its sacred and saving meaning. It is a day *for* him, to worship him, to be at peace with him, to know and love him more and more deeply. Our life is in him.

It is also why we can never exhaust the meaning or power of Sunday Mass. It can never simply be “part of the week”: if anything, our week is part of the Mass. We should live, love, suffer, pray, rejoice and do every other thing we do with our focus on the Day of Resurrection, for it contains the origin, meaning and purpose of our entire existence as individuals and as Church. A “Mass-less Sunday for a Catholic is meaningless. He/she has lost his/her compass in life, its true meaning. Whether or not someone can receive the sacramental Body of the Lord, he/she still belongs to Sunday Mass. He/she still belongs to the Risen Christ alive in his Mystical Body.

As you know, the readings from Scripture accompany us through the Ordinary Sundays of the Year and offer plenty of food for thought and life. The menu is so vast, however, that it might be helpful to try and provide this or that focus which will cover a few weeks at a time for the 20 or so Sundays between now and Advent. Just how many weeks per focus will depend on the focus chosen. My proposal would be to choose a focus on the basis of the readings and then to try to relate it to different aspects of life, especially of the spiritual life.

For example, for the Sundays in July we will be reading excerpts from the beautiful chapter 8 of St. Paul's letter to the Romans. It is really all about the spiritual life of the baptised Christian, especially about the Holy Spirit working through and in our own spirits, bodies and creation itself, longing and hoping for the freedom that God has in store for those who love him. Hence, to set in motion this new approach, I will try over those Sundays to find ways of relating this beautiful doctrine of St. Paul to our lives.

I used an important word there: I will *try* and do this! My deck of cards is limited, so I won't pursue it if it becomes contrived or tedious – for you or for me!

Fr. Peter