



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles: 29 June 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 29 June

St Peter & St Paul, Apostles

Maureen Connell (1st A)

Michéal Loughlin (A)

Maureen Sinclair (A)

Mary & Tommy Donnelly (A)

Lilly Batt (BR)

Jiri Jelenek (RD)

Tom McDonnell (RD)

Monday, 30 June

The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Funeral - Noreen Rodgers RIP

Holy Souls

Tuesday, 1 July

St Oliver Plunkett, bishop & martyr

Ivanka & Family (SI)

Wednesday, 2 July

Joan Wylde (1st A)

Nano Blake (BR)

Seamus Lee Mongan (RD)

Thursday, 3 July

St Thomas, Apostle

Holy Souls

Friday, 4 July

St Elizabeth of Portugal

Tucker Hughes (A)

Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)

Ann Marie Hughes (D)

Saturday, 5 July

St Anthony Zaccaria, priest

Special Intention

FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

Today we celebrate the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, two great heroes of our faith.

In today's gospel we have an account of Peter's confession of who Jesus is "*you are the Christ, the son of the living God.*" It was in response to this profession of faith that Jesus said "*You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church.*" It was a privileged moment for Peter; he was to be the future leader of the church.

Sadly, later in the gospel, we are told, that after Jesus was arrested, Peter denied knowing him three times, "*I do not know the man!*" It is a clear and emphatic denial of having no association with Jesus. When Peter realised what he had done we are told that he wept bitterly. The memory and pain of that denial must have remained with him all his life. He was indeed a wounded leader but his trust in Jesus or rather Jesus' trust in him prevailed.

Unlike Peter, Paul never met Jesus and we first hear of him as he witnessed the stoning of St Stephen. He was determined to destroy the early church and relentlessly hunted down and persecuted its' members. After his conversion on the road to Damascus he became an ardent follower of the Christian Way and showed the same zeal in spreading the Christian faith as he had brought to its' suppression. His work among the Gentiles was tireless.

Paul was very much aware of his own weaknesses but saw them as an opportunity for Christ's power to rest upon him: "*For the sake of Christ, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*"

Both Peter and Paul were involved in public disagreements *within* the early Church. The burning issue of the day was the inclusion of the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) into the Christian Church. On one occasion Paul had to stand up to Peter because Peter would not eat with Gentiles – In his letter to the Galatians, Paul says: "*When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he clearly was wrong.*" However, he never questioned Peter's authority.

Both travelled widely proclaiming the Gospel and ultimately ended up in Rome – Peter as a leader of the community there, and Paul as a prisoner. Both were martyred during the persecution of the emperor Nero.

Encouraged and consoled by God's transforming love in the lives of Saints Peter and Paul, we pray that like them, we will be open to the grace of God, be steadfast in our faith, united in our mission, and unwavering in our love for Christ and His Church.

Fr Kevin O'Shea CM

• RALLY FOR LIFE

On Saturday 5 July 1.30pm, the annual pro-life march sets off from Parnell Square. Please try to set aside some time to join this peaceful and positive rally in support of the pro-life movement.

• OASIS DAY

One-day retreats in Manresa Centre of Spirituality - guided prayer, meeting with spiritual director, confession and Mass. Choose a date that suits you: 19 Jul, 16 Aug, 27 Sept, 18 Oct, 15 Nov, 6 Dec and 13 Dec. Time 9.30am - 5.30pm. Contact (01) 552 9448 for more information.

• KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, 13 September, see more details on page 2.

• FEAST OF ST OLIVER PLUNKETT

Tuesday 1st July.

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 29 June 2025

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 unremittently.

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.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Or: The angel of the Lord rescues those who revere him.

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

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

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.

But 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.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Noreen Rodgers (Cabra Park).

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

COLLECTIONS - Sunday 22nd June

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Tap/Online/Payzone) = €1,201.27

Envelopes (incl. Online/Payzone) = € 831.50

Share = € 295.61

Thank you for your support for the parish and for the Diocese.

VINCENTIAN PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Join us and encourage others, as we pilgrimage to Knock on **Saturday, 13 September** to honour our Blessed Lady and give thanks for the many blessing we receive. Bookings now at the Parish Office Cost: €60 per person (to be paid in full at time of booking) includes tea break and evening meal. For more details please ring 838 9708 or info@stpetersphibsboro.ie.

Online bookings can also be made at the following link: <https://platform.payzone.ie/customer/10002/product-list/details/118>.