



“Peter and Paul bequeath to us the image of a Church entrusted to our hands, yet guided by the Lord with fidelity and tender love, for it is He who guides the Church.”

Pope Francis

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Acts 12: 1-11

Psalms 33: 2-9

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18

Matthew 16: 13-19

Peter and Paul are not just giants of the early Church. They are the foundations. We know Peter as the one chosen by Christ to be the rock. Paul was the tireless missionary who proclaimed Christ to the Gentiles. It is important to remember that they were very flawed men. However, both were forgiven, and both were transformed by mercy.

Peter denied Jesus. Paul persecuted His followers. Yet Christ called them, entrusted them, and sent them. The Church is not made up of perfect people doing perfect work, but of forgiven people living the mission, with mercy in their hearts.

The Church is apostolic not only in structure, but in spirit. It is founded on lives that were changed by the encounter with Christ. That same mercy is offered to us. It is also asked of us. As Pope Francis reminds us, “The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open... where there is mercy” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 47).

Peter reminds us that leadership in the Church is not about control, but about witness. Paul reminds us that evangelisation is not about success, but about faithfulness. Both show us that the Church does not belong to us. It belongs to Christ.

To celebrate the feast of Peter and Paul is to remember the cost of discipleship. Both gave their lives for the Gospel. Both lived and died proclaiming the mercy they had received. Their legacy is not in what they built, but in how they loved.

This is the Church we belong to. A Church built on mercy. A Church that still walks with Peter’s humility and Paul’s fire.

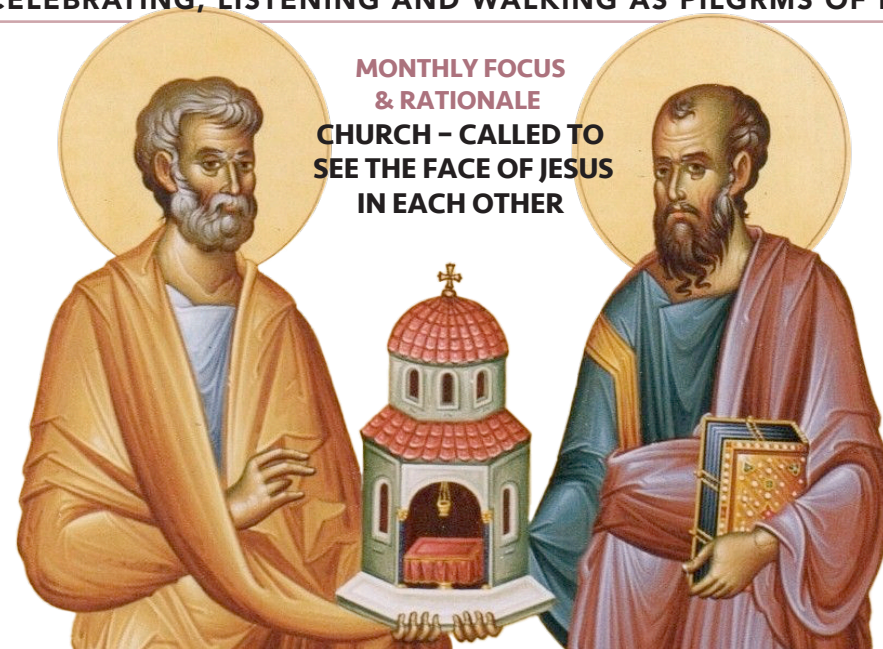
Let us give thanks for these two apostles. And let us ask for the grace and mercy that shaped them.✙

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NEWBEC

The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles | 29 June 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Foundations of A Merciful Church

This year, the final Sunday of June invites us to celebrate something rare. The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, which usually falls on 29 June, falls on a Sunday. When this happens, the Church puts this feast at the centre of our Sunday worship. This feast is not just a commemoration of these two great Saints of the Church but a reminder of who we are.