

June 29th 2025 Feast of Saints Peter & Paul - Year C - Matthew 16:13- 19

^{16:13}When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

¹⁴And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

¹⁶And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

¹⁷And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

➤ **Read and re-read** – out loud and slowly the Gospel.

➤ **Meditate** - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.

➤ **Pray** - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition.

➤ **Action** – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).

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This week we celebrate the two founders of the Christian Church, Peter and Paul, in some ways not the ideal disciples. Jesus saw something in Peter that no one else did, even though he often misunderstood Jesus and was troubled by waves of doubt throughout his discipleship. The moment he proclaims Jesus as the Messiah he establishes himself as the rock on which Jesus founded his church. The courage and perseverance displayed by Peter and Paul did not come from within themselves but from God. Even though these are troubled times for the Church we have the Words of Jesus "that the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it" which should be an encouragement for us all. Do we pay enough attention to the words spoken by Jesus in the gospels to each one of us?

Prayer:

Lord thank you for the people who have been rocks in our lives. They have helped us not to give up when we really felt it was not worth keeping our faith .

Forgive us Lord for the times that we were not always true to the message of Christ, just as Peter stood frightened and isolated denying Jesus three times.

Help us Lord to realise that while the Church is Divine, it is also human. We are Christian but not perfect. Let us like St. Paul fight a good fight and keep the faith.