



ST. PETER IN CHAINS • ARDROSSAN

'Family of Parishes'

ST. BRIDE'S • WEST KILBRIDE



Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul

28th June 2020

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**St. Peter's in Chains,
and St. Bride's,
are Parishes
in the RC Diocese of
Galloway.
Scottish Charity
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THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

Introduction

Today we celebrate a special feast day – the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. (The feast is actually tomorrow, but holy days are moved to Sunday when they fall on Saturday or Monday) They were very different in character and history, but were drawn together in service of Jesus and his Gospel. Both ended their lives in the city of Rome. They are nicknamed “princes of the Apostles” because each in his own way was a leader and influence in the Church in its beginnings.

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:13-19

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.’

Reflection

Today Jesus makes a pun! He renames Simon “Peter”: “Petros” in Greek and “Kepha” in Aramaic means “Rock” – or perhaps even “Rocky”?! The point is that Jesus wants Simon Peter to be the “rock” or foundation of the Church. But it may seem that Peter was a somewhat wobbly foundation – remember how he denied knowing Jesus three times on Maundy Thursday? Saint Paul too is an unusual leader for the early Church – he had started out persecuting Christians, arresting and imprisoning them! Jesus chooses real, fragile people. The weaknesses of Peter and Paul become their strengths, as they allow the grace of God, rather than anything of their own, to work within them. We may sometimes feel we are not cut out to be saints: let us remember this feast day, and the trust Jesus shows in ordinary human beings, with all their faults, to do His work in the family of the Church.

Just for a laugh...

- A passenger in a taxi tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the taxi, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the kerb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments everything was silent in the taxi, then the driver said, "please don't ever do that again. You scared the daylights out of me." The passenger, who was also frightened, apologised and said he didn't realise that a tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much. The driver replied, "I'm sorry, it's really not your fault at all. Today is my first day driving a taxi. I have been driving a hearse for the last 25 years!
- A SENIORS PERSPECTIVE OF FACEBOOK - For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the 'Thumbs up' and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook. And, I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

WEEKLY BULLETIN - If you would like to receive the weekly Bulletin and updates by email, please get in touch with the Parish Office and send us your email address. If you know of someone who would like to be included on the mailing list, please let us know. Thanks!

13th Week of the Year (A)

Sunday 28 th June	Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes.</i>
Monday 29 th June	13th Week of the Year (A) - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Mrs Gallacher (Kilmarnock)</i>
Tuesday 30 th June	13th Week of the Year (A) - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Lianne Lieser (SI)</i>
Wednesday 1 st July	13th Week of the Year - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Margaret Taylor (RD)</i>
Thursday 2 nd July	13th Week of the Year (A) - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Joe Martin (RD)</i>
Friday 3 rd July	Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and a Special Birthday Intention (BM)</i>
Saturday 4 th July	Our Lady's Day - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and In Thanksgiving from Betty Craig.</i>

A Simple Explanation of the Mass - Part IV

The Mass has four parts altogether: The Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rites. The two main parts of the Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. These two are so closely connected that they form one single act of worship. Let's look this week at the Introductory Rites. The purpose of the Introductory Rites is to ensure that we come together as one to establish communion and dispose ourselves to listen properly to God's Word and celebrate the Eucharist worthily. The Mass begins with an Entrance Hymn. This song has the purpose to unify those present so that we can offer true worship to the Father. The priest then venerates the Altar with a kiss. The Altar symbolises Christ. On special days, the priest may incense the Altar as another gesture of respect. In our Christian tradition, the ascending smoke of the incense symbolises the prayer of our hearts rising up to God. We then make the Sign of the Cross, proclaiming that we belong to Christ and that he is our way to the Father. The Penitential Act is our opportunity to recognise our sinfulness before God and praise God for his mercy. The Gloria is a most ancient hymn by which the Church, gathered in the Holy Spirit, glories and entreats God the Father and the Lamb. The Opening Prayer of the priest - the Collect - brings together the prayers of the congregation and presents them to God. The Collect completes the Introductory Rites. Our behaviour at Mass is contagious. We can impact those around us in a positive or negative way. The prayerful and warm celebration of Mass attracts people, while one carried out in a cold and impassive manner is a sure turn-off and drives people away. When we gather to celebrate the Mass, we must be ready to cooperate with God's grace. Good Practice Suggestion: Show hospitality in Church, aware that the warmth you show to another may be very important to a visitor or to someone who is hurting and feeling alone.

MASS LIVE-STREAMED EVERY DAY

Please tune-in to our daily Mass live-streamed from St Peter's and join in the Mass from home. Just visit our Parish websites and you will find the link to the live-streaming on Youtube:

Monday to Saturday: Rosary at 9.35am, Mass at 10am. Sunday: Mass at 10.30am. Spread the word.

St. Peter's News

Church will be open for private prayer on
Wednesdays and Saturdays 11.30am till 12.30pm.

▶ **THANK YOU FROM BETTY CRAIG** Betty and her son James would like to thank Father Duncan, Canon Matt and all friends and reactions for the Mass cards and for their kindness shown to them on the death of her son John. The Holy Mass will be offered in your intentions.

RE-OPENING OF ST. PETER'S AND ST. BRIDE'S FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Our churches can now be re-opened
for private prayer and visits.

Parish Stewards have to be available
during the opening times,

so that means we cannot be open every day,
but will have to specify days and times.

Stewards will be available for information
and guide visitors through the safety procedures.

This is a very welcome step,
after more than twelve long weeks, of the Church being closed,
so please make good use of the possibility.

Christ is waiting for us in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

Let's make a firm appointment with him and keep it.

Please don't forget to bring your own face covering.

St. Brides's News

Church will be open for private prayer on
Wednesdays 11.30am till 12.30pm.

▶ **CHURCH OPENING** We were delighted to open St. Bride's on Wednesday for Private Prayer. It was lovely to welcome and chat to those Parishioners who came along. We will continue the Private Prayer weekly (until further notice) from 11.30 - 12.30. We look forward to seeing more of you over the coming weeks.

▶ **100 CLUB** We have done the draw (behind closed doors) for March and April. Here are the results: March - Peter Ross, April - Winifred Hutchison. Congratulations, your winnings will be available when our Church opens for Sunday Mass.

▶ **BULLETIN NEWS** If you have any news you would like to be included in our Bulletin or you would like to receive the Bulletin by email please send your details to: howiephyllis@yahoo.co.uk

Had a painter in doing
some work upstairs
today. Told me he's a
furloughed airline
pilot. Made a lovely job
of the landing.

Mustard Seeds

✠ You can't please Everyone

An old fable that has been passed down for generations tells about an elderly man who was travelling with a boy and a donkey. As they walked through a village, the man was leading the donkey and the boy was walking behind. The townspeople said the old man was a fool for not riding, so to please them he climbed up on the animal's back. When they came to the next village, the people said the old man was cruel to let the child walk while he enjoyed the ride. So, to please them, he got off and set the boy on the animal's back and continued on his way. In the third village, people accused the child of being lazy for making the old man walk, and the suggestion was made that they both ride. So the man climbed on and they set off again. In the fourth village, the townspeople were indignant at the cruelty to the donkey because he was made to carry two people. The frustrated man was last seen carrying the donkey down the road. We smile, but this story makes a good point: We can't please everybody, and if we try we end up carrying a heavy burden. Well-meaning people may offer us advice, and much of it is valuable. But when we try to do everything other people want us to do, we can easily become frustrated and confused. That's why we need to remember that the One we must please above all others is Christ. And we do that by obeying God's Word. Carried any donkey's lately? You don't have to if you're trying to please Jesus.

✠ The Power of God's Grace

Christ chose St Peter to be the first pope, to be, "the rock" upon which he would build his Church. But this is the same Peter who denied our Lord three times the night Jesus was arrested, before the rooster crowed. He betrayed his Lord, Saviour, and friend when being questioned by a mere servant girl. That's hardly the kind of dependability you would expect from a rock. It is said that Peter wept for this sin at least once every day for the rest of his life, until the tears wore two pale tracks down the skin of his face. Christ chose St Paul to be the Church's first and greatest missionary. And yet, Paul started out as the leader of a violent persecution designed to crush the infant Church soon after Christ's ascension. But Christ chose him to announce the Gospel all over the ancient world, planting Christian communities in dozens of cities for almost thirty years. And he didn't choose Paul because he was such a great public speaker and charismatic leader. He was short, bow-legged, skinny, and had a weak and whiney voice. The Bible tells us that his critics despised him because "His bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account" (2 Corinthians 10:10). How did these two men, so flawed, so human, become the two unshakable pillars of the Catholic Church? What transformed them into saints, martyrs, and history-makers? God's grace: the same grace that has kept the Church alive and growing for twenty centuries; the same grace we all received at baptism. On today's Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul, God wants to remind us that our success and fulfilment as Christians depends more on his grace than our efforts. What a relief!

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