

Parish of St Mary, Middlewich & St Margaret Ward, Holmes Chapel

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Saints Peter & Paul, 28th June 2020

Sunday	28th June	10.30am	Clarence Costello Anniv.
Monday	29th June	9.00am	William Stoneley Anniv.
Tuesday	30th June	9.00am	Private Int.
Wednesday	1st July	7.30pm	Eamonn & Gabriel Nicholson RIP
Thursday	2nd July	9.00am	Private Int
Friday	3rd July	12.15pm	Requiem Mass for Vincent Fanning <i>St Thomas</i>
Saturday	4th July	4.30pm 6.30pm	Priest's Int. Priest's Int
Sunday	5th July	9.00am 11.00am	Jessie Poziemski Anniv. The Parishioners

Sacrament of Reconciliation : On request
Sacrament of Baptism On hold until further notice.

Please Pray for

ALL who are sick at home and in hospital: Stephen Grey, Margaret McCallum, Sara O'Brien, Jamie Connor, John Bomford, Nathan Carter, Larry Porter, Gillian Robinson, Tim Bradbury, Roy Yearsley, Peter Hannon, Stan Rosiak, Sadie Everard, Alex Randall, Jenny Ogden, John Evans, Shirley Gaskell, Joan Upton, Karen Potts, Mary Morris, Michael McCluskey, Jan D, Margaret Scarlett, Fr Paul Hughes, Deacon Philip White, Martin Armitt, Fr Jim McGrath, Ursula Finn,



ALL who have died recently, especially Vincent Fanning

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Joseph Cooper, William Stoneley, Tom Browne, Charles F Lawrence, George Johnson, John Jennings, Jessie Poziemski, Edward Bownes, Kathleen Bridgen, Gerry Martin, Russell Simpson, Bob Buckley, James Nugent, Joseph Costello, Mary Jump, Henry Garrity

Unite Against Coronavirus: As we cope with coronavirus in the UK, we think of our brothers and sisters in developing countries who are facing the pandemic with fragile health systems, some of which have almost no intensive care beds or ventilators. Food prices have already risen with borders closing, the poorest are losing their jobs and income with wholesale shutdowns. Furthermore, inadequate health care, lack of access to washing facilities and limited ability to social distance will result in loss of life on an intolerable scale. The likely impact will be devastating. We are one global family. Please will you sign the CAFOD petition to ask the government to work with other world leaders to help the most vulnerable people in our world to cope with this crisis? To sign the petition visit cafod.org.uk/coronaviruscampaign
 The petition asks our PM to work with other leaders to: Make sure that any vaccine developed with UK public money is made available to everyone regardless of income or where in the world they live: Provide urgent financial and technical support to help developing countries deal with this crisis: Cancel all debt payments by developing countries in 2020 so that they can spend that money on much needed healthcare rather than debt repayments: Put plans in place to build a fairer, more just society after the crisis so that the world's most vulnerable people can live in dignity and restore our common home for future generations.

Dear Parishioners,

As very few people came to the Open Church sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, we shall only open church on Monday evening and Friday morning this week. After this the Open Church sessions will stop as we have permission for public Masses from Next Saturday. Please do not think this means we are back to normal: There are lots of restrictions and regulations.

Masses can only be held in churches which have been approved as fulfilling the Covid secure conditions, so Mass cannot be celebrated at St Margaret's. Numbers at St Mary's are strictly restricted to 50 per Mass, so Fr Peter is celebrating 4 weekend Masses (see opposite for times). You will only be allowed in if you are wearing a face mask (We cannot provide these: it would cost us £100 + each weekend) The same rules apply to weekday Mass. Masses will be shorter than usual but the good news is that you will be able to receive the Eucharist, but only the host and only in the hand. There is to be no congregational singing, you must remain one metre apart, except from members of your own household, and must sanitise your hands as you enter church. You must enter down the side aisles, sit only in the marked places and exit via the centre aisle. This process, and the numbers, will be overseen by two stewards at each Mass. Please follow their instructions. If 50 people have already entered you will be asked to come to another Mass. There is still no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, so those who can come during the week are encouraged to do so. We hope to continue streaming the 11.00am Mass on Sundays for those who still cannot attend. After each Mass you will be asked to leave promptly and church will have to be closed and thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the next Mass. The provision of the Masses is dependant on there being sufficient volunteers as stewards and cleaners. At the beginning of each Mass Fr Peter will give additional detailed instructions. It is important that you listen carefully and follow these. They will include instructions for Communion.

We intend to take the necessary steps to make St Margaret's Covid secure, but due to its restricted capacity, it cannot be used for Sunday Mass until distancing regulations are eased, as doing so would reduce the overall number of parishioners able to attend weekend Masses.

There is a lot to take in and rules may change, but let us not lose sight of the fact that we can once again gather to worship together and celebrate Eucharist. Alleluia!

Fr Peter, Deacon Tony, Deacon Chris

Online giving to the Parish

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish has been added to the Parish website. Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way.

You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further. If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order. Thank you for your support.

Fr Peter will stream Morning Prayer of the Church at 8.45 this Friday. Deacon Chris will stream the Rosary this Monday at 6.30pm. Because of the opening of church for private prayer on Monday evening from 7—9, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed after Mass on Wednesday evening for half an hour and not on Monday

The past two weeks' envelopes yielded £510. Thank you. Offertory baskets will be at the back of church at all weekend Masses. We are not allowed to collect in the normal way

From next weekend, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on request, but outside, not in the Confessional. Please ring or email to make a request.

NB We do not have permission to use the parish Centre, so there will be no toilet facilities available.... Important to note, especially if you are bringing children to Mass!

Scripture Group: Several people have expressed an interest in a scripture group so Deacon Chris has started one every Tues at 7.00pm starting on Tues 23rd June. We use Zoom and look at the scripture (particularly the Gospel) for the following Sunday. If you would like to join in send an email to: stmarysmiddlewichvents@gmail.com as we will need your e-mail address to send the Zoom invitation (e-mail addresses will not be used for any other purpose). This is open to anyone, not just parishioners.

CONVERTED

Peter and Paul were both sinners, both flawed but both eventually allowed Jesus to get so close that they were converted in mind and heart. Peter acknowledged his denial and experienced anew the mercy and reconciliation that were the hallmarks of Jesus' ministry. And he became its model in his own ministry where, throughout his life in every community he visited, he would be known as both the chosen, the Jesus denier and the forgiven and reconciled one.



Paul would hear the voice, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And, with the help of a probably terrified Ananias, he began to realise that Jesus the risen Christ was now embodied in this motley community he was persecuting. So much so that in hurting them he was hurting the Messiah. And he goes and lives in silence for a few years until he sees that he and every other baptised person is now Christ in the world, each one of us refracting the divine-human mystery in a unique and particular way. From this encounter will come his teaching on the mystical body of Christ and his trust that God is always in the midst of us, the body.

When Jesus asks each of us today, "But who do you say that I am?", what will we come up with? Will we know him as the one who would reveal God's mercy to us and every other person? Will we, like Peter and Paul, so know ourselves as forgiven as to know every other person as also forgiven? Or will we just come up with some title we have learned long ago, Saviour, Redeemer, so carefully defined but touching neither us nor others?

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drink the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God. R.

FIRST READING Acts 12:1-11

PSALM Psalm 33

RESPONSE From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

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

1. 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. **R.**
2. 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. **R.**
3. 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. **R.**

4. 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. **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18

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 Matthew 16:13-19

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.**

Next Sunday's Readings:
Zechariah 9:9-10
Romans 8:9. 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

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WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Peter and Paul are celebrated today as the two co-founders of the Church. They are this not because they were great intellectuals, although Paul was certainly a scholar, nor because they were great planners or managers, although Peter did have his own fishing business. They are celebrated by the Church across the centuries because in encountering Jesus Christ they were changed. They came to see the world, and others, and God differently; and those encountering them were touched and changed by their transformed lives.



When Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do you say I am?" he was taking a risk. And the answer Peter gave, and which Jesus accepts, was full of danger – depending on how you interpreted it. For some the expected Messiah was a warrior king who would throw out the Roman forces and restore the kingdom of Solomon and its prestige in a renewed Jerusalem. For others the Messiah would be a holy reformer of Temple and cult who would re-establish orthodox practice and holiness and appoint a true high priest to the Temple.

For others the Messiah would be a great teacher and prophet ushering in a new age of pure practice and justice. There were so many models available and all of them, in Jesus' eyes, were a distraction from the coming kingdom, which is why he tends to avoid the title or else to give it his own spin. The Messiah will come but he will ride a donkey, not a war horse, and he will rule from a brutal cross, among those who are poor and destitute, not from a great palace, nor from an imposing throne; something initially Peter could not accept.

Peter is a rather chaotic role model, an enthusiast who could rarely sustain his initial commitment and who under pressure cracked and rejected Jesus. And Paul, the fundamentalist Pharisee and early persecutor of the Christian community, was certainly a hard act for the early Church to cope with.

Catching the kingdom



David McLoughlin is a teaching theologian who has spent nearly forty years helping to train Christian teachers, ministers and activists. In this week's *Sunday Bulletin*, he reflects on today's feast day.

28 JUNE 2020

SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I