

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Saints Peter and Paul

29th June 2025

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 1)



“You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church”

Heavenly Father, on this feast of Saints Peter and Paul, we thank You for their witness and intercession. Help us to follow their example of faith, courage and love, dedicating our lives to Your Gospel. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 28 th	10.30am	Dorothy Hoole	The Immaculate Heart of the BVM (memorial)
	SECOND COLLECTION: PETER'S PENCE		Ss Peter and Paul
	6.00pm	Vera and Joe Proctor	
Sun 29 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 30 th	No Mass today		Feria (week 13)
Tue 1 st July	9.30am	Robert Booth	Feria
Wed 2 nd	9.30am	Vocations	Feria
Thu 3 rd	9.30am	For all struggling with their faith	St Thomas (feast)
Fri 4 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 5 th	10.00am	CONFESSIONS	BVM
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions (Blessing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	Francis Elliott	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 6 th	9.30am	For the Parish	

First Saturday of the month: Confessions at 10.00am, Anointing of the sick during 10.30am Mass

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 28 th		L Lomax		J Hothersall	
Sun 29 th		F Fordyce		M Gardner	
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, G Fowler	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 5 th		M Russell		L Gardner	
Sun 6 th		K Slater		J Slater	
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	A & G Fowler	Collection counters	L & M Gardner

Last weekend attendance: 116, collection £317.10 – thank you!

Readings: Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18, Matthew 16:13-19.

Today's feast is about two colossal pillars upon whose shoulders the church has stood for over two thousand years.

Throughout the Bible, we see God choosing the most unlikely people to carry out his will on earth and among the most unlikely were St Peter and St Paul.

In Luke's Gospel, after netting a huge catch of fish on Jesus' instructions, Peter recognizes something very holy in Jesus and falling to his knees, begs Jesus to leave him for *I am a sinful man* he says. But Jesus says: Up! ... for I will make you more than just fishermen; *I will make you fishers of men*.

Elsewhere, Peter tries to walk on water but his faith fails him and he has to be rescued by Jesus: *Lord, save me* he cries and Jesus reaches out and holds him. *Man of little faith*, he says, *why did you doubt?*

Also, we remember how, after Jesus' arrest, Peter three times denied knowing him and how Jesus gives him a second chance to affirm him three times.

As for the unlikely calling of St Paul: who would have thought that this chief agent of the Jewish high priest for the suppression of those early Christians, described in *Acts* as *still breathing out threats to slaughter the Lord's disciples*, so headstrong, combative, argumentative to the point of falling out with people, nevertheless would, by God's grace, become Christianity's chief agent for its spread throughout the world.

Both Peter and Paul were flawed characters.

In today's first reading, we find poor Peter in prison for his faith in Jesus.

His old life has been turned upside down by his encounter with Jesus, as with the other disciples, and now we find him bamboozled and in a daze by another divine encounter as angelic forces release him from prison; this by the persistent prayer of the church we are told.

It would seem that God had more work for him to do on earth before he was to take him to himself in martyrdom.

In his letter to Timothy, St Paul could be speaking for St Peter when he says: *The Lord stood by me and gave me power...* so that he could spread the message of God's love to the wider non-Jewish world; while for Peter, his calling was to spread the message of God's love to the Jews; but both Peter and Paul realized that *anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.* (Acts 10: 35)

Jesus commissions his eleven disciples to teach what he has taught them (Mt 28:20) and to retain or forgive sins (Jn 20:22-23), but it is Jesus' specific commission to Peter with reference to the keys, and of Peter being a rock and foundation upon which the church would be built, that puts Peter, as some might say, the first among equals and a sign of unity.

Tradition has them both being martyred in Rome during the Christian persecutions of the emperor Nero; thus, Rome becomes the centre of the global and universal Christian church.

The feast of Saints Peter and Paul teaches us many things, especially about perseverance in prayer and faith along with the need to keep our eyes firmly focused on Jesus if we are to remain above the forces that would suck us under and into a turbulent sea of despair.

We live in a world quick to condemn and pass negative judgement upon the weak and vulnerable, whether physical, emotional or moral. There is no forgiveness, and social media platforms ensure that the past will never be forgotten so that new beginnings and second chances may be had.

In his choice of Saints Peter and Paul, we draw comfort in a God who does not share that view.

Reflections:

Forgiveness demonstrates the presence in the world of the love which is more powerful than sin. (*St John Paul II*)

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave. (*St John Chrysostom*)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's commemoration

Saint Thomas the Apostle whose doubt provoked the risen Lord to say 'Blessed are they who have not seen but yet believe' – an encouragement to us all.

THIS SUNDAY is the Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul when the **SECOND COLLECTION** is for Peter's Pence. This collection provides financial support to the Holy Father for his charitable works, including aid to those affected by war, natural disasters and oppression around the world.

We could do with a few more volunteers for mowing etc in the **GRAVEYARD**. If you can help, please get in touch with Barry Spencer or Michael Cowsley. Thank you!

Please keep your eye on the "**TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS**" section of our website – it will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick or housebound including Ann Green, Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick, as well as for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 29 is number 25, Nuala and Brian Joyce. If the proposed closure goes ahead, this will be our last block of 10 weeks and those who paid for the full year will be refunded the unused subs. If, as we all hope, the parish is allowed to continue, the 100 Club will carry on as now.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Ordinary Time (Summer), ie up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Human Life; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Seafarers.

Bidding Prayers for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul 2025

Priest: As we celebrate the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, let us turn to our Father as we pray for our own needs and the needs of the world.

Reader:

We pray that Pope Leo, successor to the apostle Peter, and for our new archbishop John: that they will be filled with grace as they serve God's people. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for world leaders, that they are always aware of the poorest and weakest members of their communities, and of the wider world, and do their best to support them and improve the conditions in which they live. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for peace in the world, thinking especially of the Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and Iran but also bearing in mind there are other conflicts that are not being reported. Lord in your mercy....

We pray that our parish will be given the chance to continue in some form or other. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for all our friends, neighbours and family who need our support. Lord in your mercy....

We ask for the intercession of Our Blessed Lady as we say: Hail Mary...

Let us pray for a moment in silence for our own intentions

Priest: Loving Father, we offer you our prayers. Grant that we may, like Saints Peter and Paul, spread the faith in our own small ways. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Priest: As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

All: May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.