



TWO GOOD MEN

(MATTHEW 16:13-19)

A sculpture in St Peter's Basilica, Rome, of Christ enthroned with St Paul, St Peter and Pope Pius VIII

Jesus has been going around curing sick people and performing miracles, with the result that he has become quite a celebrity. But he has also become a target, and those in authority are out to get him. They are trying to turn public opinion against him, and things are hotting up.

Jesus asks his disciples to be honest with him. He wants to know what people are saying about him. His friends are nervous and embarrassed. They fudge the issue and tell him only the good things.

Well, they begin, some say you are John the Baptist. Others say you are Elijah, while others think you're Jeremiah or one of the other great prophets.

But Jesus doesn't want flattery. He stops them in their tracks: "What about you?" he says, "Who do you say that I am?"

While the others stop to think about what they're going to say, Peter, impetuous as always, rushes forth with the winning answer. For him, Jesus is no mere prophet or returned figure from the past. He is the Messiah, God's own Son, the one whose coming the scriptures had foretold.

For the first time, it seems the disciples are beginning to recognise who Jesus really is. Then events take an unexpected turn, which no doubt leaves Peter dumbstruck and confused.

Jesus blesses Peter for his answer, and gives him authority in the community. Peter will be the unshakeable rock upon which Christ will build his Church, and will hold the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Peter, and later Paul, knew that Jesus was their Lord and Saviour. They spent their lives after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus preaching that Good News, building up the early Church. Both shared a martyr's death. Both were instrumental in laying the foundations for the Church we have today.

That is why we honour them with today's feast. Like Peter and Paul, we know who Jesus is and we too are called to make him known as best we can. ■

REFLECT

Because we are human, we make mistakes, we screw up, we disappoint ourselves and others. Whether it's on the sports field, or in the workplace, or in a relationship, we can let others down. We don't always show our potential.

And so we know how important it is to be given a second chance, another opportunity, to be able to start all over again. To be offered the possibility of redemption.

Peter and Paul both knew and experienced that. Both were weak characters, who made big mistakes. Peter denied Jesus three times; Paul actively persecuted members of the early Christian community. Both were most unlikely candidates to lead the Church, yet God chose both of them. God overlooked their weakness and past failures because God saw the extraordinary potential in the two of them.

In God's eyes, there are no lost causes, no hopeless cases. God sees the potential in everyone. God sees the potential in each one of us also, and as God did with Peter and Paul, invites us to be our best selves. ■



SAY

"Lord, I know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

LEARN

God sees the potential in everyone.

Each of us is called to build up the community of faith.

DO

Though leaders of the Church, Peter and Paul were both very conscious of their faults and failings. They knew they were far from perfect. Think about your life. What are your failings? What do you need to do to be closer to God?

PRAY

Ask the Lord to help you always to know who he is and to witness to him to the best of your ability, following the example of Peter and Paul.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles
Peter and Paul
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,
grant, we pray, that your Church
may in all things follow the teaching
of those through whom she received
the beginnings of right religion.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 12:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
King Herod started persecuting certain
members of the Church. He beheaded James
the brother of John, and when he saw that
this pleased the Jews, he decided to arrest
Peter as well. This was during the days
of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in
prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers
each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to
try Peter in public after the end of Passover
week. All the time Peter was under guard the
Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.
On the night before Herod was to try him,
Peter was sleeping between two soldiers,
fastened with double chains, while guards
kept watch at the main entrance to the prison.
Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood
there, and the cell was filled with light. He
tapped Peter on the side and woke him. "Get
up!" he said "Hurry!" – and the chains fell
from his hands. The angel then said, "Put on
your belt and sandals." After he had done
this, the angel next said, "Wrap your cloak
around you and follow me." Peter followed
him, but had no idea that what the angel did
was happening in reality; he thought he was
seeing a vision. They passed through two
guard posts one after the other, and reached
the iron gate leading to the city. This opened
of its own accord; they went through it and
had walked the whole length of one street
when suddenly the angel left him. It was only
then that Peter came to himself. "Now I know
it is all true," he said. "The Lord really did

send his angel and has saved me from Herod
and from all that the Jewish people were so
certain would happen to me. "

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 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

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to
Timothy.

My life is already being poured away as a
libation, and the time has come for me to
be gone. I have fought the good fight to the
end; I have run the race to the finish; I have
kept the faith; all there is to come now is the
crown of righteousness reserved for me,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give
to me on that Day; and not only to me but all
those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave power, so
that through me the whole message might
be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and,
so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The
Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts
on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly
kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord,
accompany the sacrificial gift
that we present to your name for consecration,
and may their intercession make us devoted
to you
in celebration of the sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, O Lord,
who have been renewed by this Sacrament,
so to live in the Church,
that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread
and in the teaching of the Apostles,
we may be one heart and one soul,
and made steadfast in your love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon

1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 9am-12pm Monday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
We live stream most services (the 10.15am Mass on the first Sunday of every month is not live streamed).
Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PARISH OFFICE: From Wednesday 1st July the parish office will reopen and will be open on Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

OPENING FOR MASS!

- The church is open for **private prayer only**, between **11.00am and 1.00pm from Monday to Friday**.

The wonderful good news is that we will also be reopening for Mass daily **from Sunday 5th July**. This is an exciting time, when we can once again receive the Eucharist sacramentally. However, we have safety measures to observe for everyone's protection and ask for your understanding and help with the procedures which we have put in place. ***Please carefully read the information below.***

- Firstly, please be aware that we will have to restrict numbers in the Church to 35-40. An extensive risk assessment has been done from the guidelines received. For this reason, be **reassured** that if you are not able to attend Mass in person on a Sunday, your weekly observation of worship and participation in the Eucharist is perfectly acceptable for **any** day of the week on which you can attend Mass in person or online.
- To prevent the eventuality that we may have to turn you away from entering the Church, we will have a **'booking' system in place, weekly, starting from Monday 29th June**.
 - Those people **without** Internet access can phone **07395 946827** between 10am and 11am **on Monday 29th June** to give the day of the week when they are able to attend Mass. Please do not use the office phone number or phone outside of this time period.
 - Those **with** Internet access are asked **not** to use the phone booking system, but instead to email us at: **contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk** giving us 2 to 3 possible days of the week when you can attend Mass. Please do this **on Monday 29th June**. You will then receive a reply with the day allocated to you.

13th week of Ordinary Time

All these Masses are live streamed only

Sunday 28 June (Saints Peter & Paul)

10.15am Mass (Peter Pitt-Pulford, RIP)

Monday 29 June

9am Mass (Colin Buckland, RIP)

Tuesday 30 June

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/thames-isis-pastoral-area for other masses

Wednesday 1 July

7pm Mass (Kathleen Boyle, RIP)

Thursday 2 July

9.30am Mass (Mark Colville, RIP)

Friday 3 July St Thomas, Apostle

7pm Mass (Joe Cawley, RIP)

Saturday 4 July (Our Lady on Saturday)

9am Mass (Colin Dawkes, RIP)

- In all cases, you are asked to state the number in your family who will be attending Mass. This is essential for our planning and to maintain safety distances.
- If you are able to, we request that you wear a face mask/covering while in the Church for Mass.
- We respectfully ask you to only attend **one** Mass each week for now, due to the limit on numbers.
- We have trained ushers who will provide you with hand sanitising gel as you enter and guide you to your seating. We request that you respect their instructions, including when leaving the Church.
- The ushers will also guide the 'procession' to receive Holy Communion. Again, please patiently follow their instructions.

Parish Events for the Week

NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Future Diary Dates

No events at the moment.

Youth Events

YOUTH GROUPS

The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now. We will let you know when they resume through our parish newsletter.

- Be aware that singing is not yet permitted under the guidelines. Also, there will be no collection basket passed around, but you may leave donations as you leave the Church.
- Please note that **from Sunday 5th July** until further notice, there will only be **two** Sunday Masses – one at **10.15am and the other at 6.30pm**. This is to allow time for the benches to be cleaned between services.

Thank you all very much for your patience and help. We very much look forward to celebrating Mass again together and receiving the Eucharist sacramentally.

Fr Jamie

CAFOD:

The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works, are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal. Please also sign the CAFOD Petition to the Prime Minister which urges the cancellation of debt for the poorest countries and sharing of a vaccine when it is developed. <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1>.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER DURING MASS:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

BIBLE ALIVE: The **July** edition of this useful booklet that can help you to focus on the daily Mass readings, is now available. If you would like a copy put through your letterbox - or know somebody who would - please email your name and address to: contact@ourladyandstedmud.org.uk - or if you have no access to email, leave a message on the parish office phone.

GIVING: We now have a facility on our website to make donations to the parish. The purpose of this donation facility is to enable any sum received to be used for and by our parish for its upkeep and benefit of parishioners. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. The facility will enable one off or continual donations (with or without gift aid) to be made securely to our parish bank account. Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated. The donation button can be accessed on our website home page.

SISTERS OF MERCY: The Sisters are going to alter the look of their plot in our cemetery. Work should begin in the next few weeks - so that you are all aware.

WE PRAY FOR:

The repose of the souls of:

- Anthony William Holden
- Mary Leen



We also pray for the families of the recently deceased

PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE:

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you. Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people. Grant us a new passion and zeal for our Catholic Faith, for mission, outreach and service. Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church.

May Mary Immaculate help us. May St Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us. Amen.

Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do though, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen

FAITH ENRICHMENT: There are a number of events and programmes on offer – necessarily online at this point in time. It is impossible to include them all here, but if you are able to visit the *News* page on our website, then you can find out more and have access to the details.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHILIP: Please read the pastoral message from Bishop Philip on the *News* page of our website – and included in hard copy with this newsletter for those who do not have the Internet.