

In Touch across North Barrow

Sunday 28th. June 2020 Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

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Worship during the day, alone or with household members

You were built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:20

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Collect for today

Almighty God,
whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul
glorified you in their death as in their life:
grant that your Church,
inspired by their teaching and example,
and made one by your Spirit,
may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings : Acts 12:7-13, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18,
Matthew 16:13-19
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

The Gospel Reading

**Alleluia! Alleluia! I do not call you servants but friends,
because I have made known to you everything
that I have heard from my Father. Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

16:¹³ When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger;
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Peter and Paul, apostles; a rock on which to build.

Clare and I spent eight years entering into church under the gaze of statues of St. Peter and St Paul standing either side of the entrance to the worship space. Peter with the keys in his hand and Paul holding a sword. That caused continual confusion with the children from our school. After all Paul must have been a soldier if he had a sword, but no, it simply shows the means by which he was martyred!

Peter and Paul do belong together. One the leader of the apostles and the early church, the other the missionary apostle to the gentiles and theologian whose writings inspired by the Holy Spirit have shaped the church's understanding and belief.

Both were instrumental in building up the church in Rome and died during the persecution of Nero between AD64 and 68, Peter by crucifixion and Paul, as a Roman citizen, by beheading.

We tend to think of Peter as the simple, impulsive fisherman, and Paul as the fearless preacher of the faith. That though is somewhat far from the mark. Peter was impulsive yes, but as he owned his boat, was more like a small business owner or tradesman in our terms.

Paul had been taught at the highest level and was an intellectual and theologian, but wasn't necessarily the most engaging preacher. Don't forget that one hearer fell from the window when he fell asleep! (Acts 20:7-12) He also suffered from recurring ill-health. His 'thorn in the flesh' that lead his detractors to question his authenticity and authority.

Both then are real life heroes with failings and faults, but open to God and to the Spirit, and used to build the church of Christ.

In today's gospel we often take Jesus reference to the rock and to the keys as relating specifically to Peter. Yes it becomes his new name - the rock - but it also refers to his confession. It is the rock of confessing Jesus as Messiah that is the foundation of the church, as well as Peter's leadership. A Messiah, who through death on the cross bore the cost of human selfishness and rebellion, vindicated by means of his resurrection and ascension.

Likewise the keys are those of gospel proclamation and lifestyle. On the day of Pentecost Peter will open the gates of the kingdom to over three thousand people, just as Paul will in founding churches on his missionary journeys. The keys of the gospel are found in forgiveness, service and self-giving love. They are to be lived out in the gathered community of Jesus' disciples, the church, and they are central to persuading others to confess that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Proclaim the good news. Use words if you have to.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Jack.

Verses from Zechariah 4 and Psalm 125

This is the word of the Lord (to Zerubbabel):

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6

Psalm 125

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 As the hills stand about Jerusalem,
so the Lord stands round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.

3 The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway
over the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.

4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are true of heart.

5 Those who turn aside to crooked ways
the Lord shall take away with the evildoers;
but let there be peace upon Israel.

Zechariah 4:3, 13-14

4:3 By (the lampstand) there are two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.' 'What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?' 13 (The angel) said to me, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' 14 Then he said, 'These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.'

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina <i>Use the verse, or verses, for each day following the pattern on the previous page. Each colour corresponds to a day of the week. Write any reflections, or ways in which you feel God is speaking to you in the boxes above</i>

NEWS AND NOTES

CHURCH OPENING : The churches will be open for Private Prayer:

St. James : Sunday 2-4pm.

St. Francis : Sunday 10-11am & Thursday 10-11am.

Full guidance for next Sunday is still not available, but potentially there will be a said Eucharist at St. James at 10.30am and at St. Francis at 6.00pm - allowing 72 hours after the Thursday opening. There will be no service books or singing, but hopefully we will be able to print of a single use sheet.

Baby JACK is doing well, but please keep him and the family in your prayers.

Community Support HUB 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri.
Call 01229 444407.

Resources : The Sunday Worship video is available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning.

Radio and TV : Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.30am
BBC Morning Worship at 10.15 on BBC1

For those who are online, the Church of England website has daily and Sunday resources to watch, download and join in with.

The website is : churchofengland.org

Daily Hope Prayer Line - 0800 804 8044 - A Church of England resource with hymns, prayers and reflections for especially for those who are not connected to the internet.

DAILY PRAYER and BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY *We give thanks for* The foundation laid down by the Apostles, and especially for the ministry and teaching of Ss. Peter & Paul.

MONDAY Amos 2:6-10, 13-end, Matthew 8:18-22
Pray for the clergy and people of St. Peter and Paul Teddington, and for St Mary's and St. Peter's school.

TUESDAY Amos 3:1-8, 4:11-12, Matthew 8:23-27
Pray for all beginning their parish ministry as deacon while waiting for ordinations to take place.

WEDNESDAY Amos 5:14-15, 21-24, Matthew 8:28-end
Pray for Bishops James & Emma in their membership of the House of Bishops and national responsibilities, 'giving a voice to Cumbria'.

THURSDAY Amos 7:10-17, Matthew 9:1-8
Pray for the work of our local GP's and their staff, and all fearful for their health and wellbeing.

FRIDAY Amos 8:4-6, 9-12, Matthew 9:9-13
(*St. Thomas*) *Pray for* the Church in India and especially for the united Church of North India and their moderator The Most Revd Dr Prem Chand Singh.

SATURDAY Amos 9:11-end, Matthew 9:14-17
Pray for all who work to keep us safe, especially for the police during the tensions easing lock-down.

**If you have prayer requests / thanksgivings,
then please let Fr. Jack know either by email or 'phone.**

NEXT SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Zechariah 9:9-12, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30