



Catholic Parish of King's Lynn

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

London Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 5HQ

Holy Family Church

Field Lane, Gaywood, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 4AY

DEACON SHAUN MORRISON'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday — June 30, 2024

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles.

Wishing you a Happy Solemnity!

"You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of hell can never hold out against it."

The YouTube link for the livestream for the 11.30am Mass from Our Lady's is:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ALEVSPDQprY?si=0bVrkduRG9r6bR8H>

From the Sunday Missal:

In their great wealth, the biblical texts of this Eucharistic Liturgy on the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul highlight a theme that could be summed up in these words: *God is close to his faithful servants and delivers them from all evil and delivers the Church from negative powers.* It is the theme of the Church's freedom, that presents an historical aspect and another that is more profoundly spiritual. We see that Jesus' promise "the powers of death shall not prevail against" the church does indeed include the historical experiences of persecution that Peter and Paul and other Gospel witnesses suffered, but goes beyond them, with the intention of assuring protection, especially from threats of a spiritual kind. Therefore a guarantee exists of the freedom that God assures the Church, freedom both from material ties that seek to prevent or to coerce her mission and from spiritual and moral evils that can tarnish her authenticity and credibility.

(Pope Benedict XVI)

From the Office of Readings for today:

A reading from the sermons of Saint Augustine

These martyrs saw what they proclaimed

This day has been consecrated for us by the martyrdom of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. It is not some obscure martyrs we are talking about. Their sound has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. These martyrs had seen what they proclaimed, they pursued justice by confessing the truth, by dying for the truth.

The blessed Peter, the first of the Apostles, the ardent lover of Christ, who was found worthy to hear, And I say to you, that you are Peter. He himself, you see, had just said, You

are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ said to him, And I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church. Upon this rock I will build the faith you have just confessed. Upon your words, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God, I will build my Church; because you are Peter. Peter comes from *petra*, meaning a rock. Peter, "Rocky," from "rock"; not "rock" from "Rocky." Peter comes from the word for a rock in exactly the same way as the name Christian comes from Christ.

Before his passion the Lord Jesus, as you know, chose those disciples of his whom he called apostles. Among these it was only Peter who almost everywhere was given the privilege of representing the whole Church. It was in the person of the whole Church, which he alone represented, that he was privileged to hear, To you will I give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. After all, it is not just one man that received these keys, but the Church in its unity. So this is the reason for Peter's acknowledged pre-eminence, that he stood for the Church's universality and unity, when he was told, To you I am entrusting, what has in fact been entrusted to all. To show you that it is the Church which has received the keys of the kingdom of heaven, listen to what the Lord says in another place to all his apostles: Receive the Holy Spirit; and immediately afterwards, Whose sins you forgive, they will be forgiven them; whose sins you retain, they will be retained.

Quite rightly, too, did the Lord after his resurrection entrust his sheep to Peter to be fed. It is not, you see, that he alone among the disciples was fit to feed the Lord's sheep; but when Christ speaks to one man, unity is being commended to us. And he first speaks to Peter, because Peter is the first among the apostles. Do not be sad, Apostle. Answer once, answer again, answer a third time. Let confession conquer three times with love, because self-assurance was conquered three times by fear. What you had bound three times must be loosed three times. Loose through love what you had bound through fear. And for all that, the Lord once, and again, and a third time, entrusted his sheep to Peter.

There is one day for the passion of two apostles. But these two also were as one; although they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, Paul followed. We are celebrating a feast day, consecrated for us by the blood of the apostles. Let us love their faith, their lives, their labours, their sufferings, their confession of faith, their preaching.

Responsory

R. O Paul, teacher of truth and apostle of the Gentiles,*

you are truly worthy of honour.

- ℣. Through you, all nations have known the grace of God:* you are truly worthy of honour.
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Wednesday 3rd July is the Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle.

From the Office of Readings:

From a homily on the Gospels by Saint Gregory the Great, Pope.

Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. He was the only disciple absent; on his return he heard what had happened but refused to believe it. The Lord came a second time; he offered his side for the disbelieving disciple to touch, held out his hands, and showing the scars of his wounds, healed the wound of his disbelief.

Dearly beloved, what do you see in these events? Do you really believe that it was by chance that this chosen disciple was absent, then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed? It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvellous way God's mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his master's body, should heal our wounds of disbelief. The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside and our faith is strengthened. So the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ's wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection.

Touching Christ, he cried out: My Lord and my God. Jesus said to him: Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Paul said: Faith is the guarantee of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. It is clear, then, that faith is the proof of what can not be seen. What is seen gives knowledge, not faith. When Thomas saw and touched, why was he told: You have believed because you have seen me? Because what he saw and what he believed were different things. God cannot be seen by mortal man. Thomas saw a human being, whom he acknowledged to be God, and said: My Lord and my God. Seeing, he believed; looking at one who was true man, he cried out that this was God, the God he could not see.

What follows is reason for great joy: Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. There is here a particular reference to ourselves; we hold in our hearts one we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practises what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works. Therefore James says: Faith without works is dead.

Responsory

- ℣. Life has been made visible; we have seen it and testify to it, and we here declare to you the eternal life* which dwelt with the Father and was made visible to us.

- ℣. We have seen with our own eyes and touched with

our hands the Word who is life. What we have seen and heard we are telling you concerning that life* which dwelt with the Father and was made visible to us.

For the forthcoming General Election:

From the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

The Prime Minister has called a general election for Thursday, 4 July. By clicking into the following link you will find information and guidance on key issues of importance to us, as Catholics, to help inform how we vote.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/>

An extract from the website:

Gospel values inform how we look at the world as Christians. These values can also offer a different way of looking at politics, a way that puts the common good before self-interest.

Throughout this election season we will be seeking answers which will help the poor, the marginalised, and the vulnerable.

We seek a society in which all families can flourish and where we care for our common home, where we offer a welcoming hand to strangers in need, where we look out for those struggling to get on.

Families are the heart of our communities and society.

We seek, therefore, political leaders who can reflect and share these values. But this is not just about leaders, it is about us. We are not merely the passive recipients of politics but active citizens. An election is the best time for us as Christians to speak out, to get involved, and to lead. We hope that these resources will help in that endeavour.

Cardinal's Message

President of the Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, is asking voters to be active rather than passive to engage with politicians on the key issues. "You want to know what your candidate will think and say on your behalf when that candidate gets into Parliament," says the Cardinal. "I would like to put forward a theme for us all to think about. How do we seek to construct a society in which families can flourish? That's the bedrock". The YouTube link to the Cardinal's message is:

[Cardinal encourages participation in UK General Election](#)

The link to our YouTube channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V030I7usRZiKoTlrwBAKg>

And the link to our Parish Website:

<http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk/>

God bless

Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison