

FIRST READING

Acts 12:1-11

King Herod started persecuting 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 round 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."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From all my terrors the Lord set me free

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.
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.
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.
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.

SECOND READING

2Timothy 4:6-8.117-18

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 to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me 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.

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:

Matt 16:13-19

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."

St Anthony of Padua

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Who do you say I am?"

We are always living with this question, moving from simply knowing about Jesus to knowing him. It's not that Jesus changes. We do. And in doing so, we not only discover Jesus anew, we discover ourselves anew. Then, with Peter, our response will be, "You are the Christ." (Michael Marsh)

It has been said that when Jesus said to Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church", he is referring to Peter's faith and his understanding of the Christ Mystery. Christ is not Jesus' last name. The word Christ is a title, meaning the Anointed One. Many people have limited that anointing to the unique person of Jesus. After his conversion experience, Paul understood that the meaning of the Anointed One, the Christ, includes us and includes all of creation since the beginning of time. "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, All things were created through Him and for Him. He exists before all things, and in Him all things have their being." (Col 1: 15-17) Paul uses the phrase "in Christ" 164 times to describe this organic unity and participation in Christ. "I live no longer, not I; but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20). "In Christ" is his code phrase for this new participatory life. Paul is obsessed with the idea that "I'm participating in something that's bigger than me."

What if we've missed the point of who Christ is, what Christ is, and where Christ is? I believe that a Christian is simply one who has learned to see Christ everywhere. Understanding the Universal or Cosmic Christ can change the way we relate to creation, to other religions, to other people, to ourselves, and to God. Knowing and experiencing this Christ-soaked universe can bring about a major shift in consciousness. Like Saul's experience on the road to Damascus, we won't be the same after encountering the Cosmic Christ. After conversion, we don't look out at reality; we look out from reality. In other words, God is not "out there": we are in God and God is in us.

(Adapted. Richard Rohr)

St Peter & St Paul (Week 13) Year A

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 27th Jun 2020

Sat		Ann Kathleen Corless	
Sun		For our parish	<i>Feast: Ss. Peter & Paul</i>
Mon		Family & friends Norah Stanton	
Tue		Freda Thornton	
Wed		Mary & Gerard Ibson	
Thur		Michael Fitzgerald	
Fri		Peter Clayton	<i>Feast: St. Thomas</i>
Sat 10.00am 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Special Intention Margaret & Bert Swarbrick	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Mary Turner Special Intention For our parish	<i>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>

Masses received this week:

Family & friends of Peter Clayton, Linda Salter, John Calvey, Special Intention (KH), Michael Fitzgerald, In thanks for successful operation.

Acknowledgement

Thank you for further donations for the Food Bank, SVP and Cafod Emergency Appeal.

Please pray for: Bishop Paul, Joan Anderton, Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Mary Kathleen Kellett, Chris Goldsmith, Frank Stanton, Betty Murphy, Marie Gardner, Carole Adnitt, Joan Green, Frances & Les Farrer.

Also the isolated and lonely, all medical staff and carers, those in research, the Government and all world leaders, all who are assisting the public in any way.

... for those who have died recently: Norah Stanton, Peter Clayton;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Joanne Clarkson, Joseph Morrison, Raymond Barton, Elsie Nickson, Eric Penney, Ann Kathleen Corless, Linda Salter, Walter Donaghy, Maureen Fraser, Malcolm Hulme, Richard Berry, Michael Fitzgerald, Freda Thornton, Margaret Will.

We remember in our prayers those who have been injured or lost their lives in conflict, especially those from our parish.

Church is opening!

We have been given the go-ahead to resume public Masses from next weekend! We are delighted to be able to welcome people back into our church. Its clear that so many people have missed coming together for Sunday Mass. But there are conditions.

1. We would be allowed to reduce social distancing to 1-metre if everyone wore a face mask. We do not think it is feasible to require this so we must retain the 2-metre rule.
2. This severely limits the capacity of the church. To help alleviate this there will be two additional Masses each weekend - at 10.00am on Saturday morning and at 5.00pm on Sunday evening. These will be 'Sunday' Masses, with the Sunday readings & prayers etc. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays remains suspended. Those who are elderly or shielding should consider not returning yet.
3. To minimise movement in church Stewards will direct parishioners to fill the benches from the front (you may light candles at the statues first if you wish but remember that sanitising liquid is highly flammable so keep your hands away from the flame.). You will probably not be able to go in your 'usual' bench but that will give you a new perspective!
4. There will be standing room at the back of church when all the benches are occupied but you must still keep the 2-metre distancing.
5. Holy Communion will come at the very end of Mass i.e. after the blessing - and then you should exit church immediately by the emergency exit at the front. Please do not form a long queue in the centre aisle because you will be close to people in benches.
6. There will be no Bidding Prayers and a short homily. There will be no offertory procession or collection. Please put your offerings in the basket at the start of Mass (envelopes are now available). There is no Sign of Peace and no singing.
7. PLEASE NOTE: If church reaches safe capacity be prepared to go home and come to a later Mass.
8. Weekday Mass will return as usual - Tues, Wed & Fri at 9.15am at St. Anthony's; Mon & Thurs at Holy Family. There will be no need for the current one hour for private prayer.
9. Confessions will be available in the Sacristy on request.
10. The toilets will remain out of use for the time being.
11. Funeral Services may now be in church but not funeral Masses.

If all this sounds too complicated don't worry: there will be stewards on hand to assist. We're trying to get back to normal as soon as possible.

Covenant Books: The book shop at Holy Family has re-opened Thurs & Fri. 10am-4pm; Sat 10.00-12.30pm.

Repeat notices

Virtual 'Coffee Morning' The zoom Coffee Mornings continue to work well. Today's log in information is: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89654902117> Meeting ID: 896 5490 2117 Come and discuss the new arrangements or anything else. You will not be able to join until 11.00am. Thanks again to Angie for facilitating and hosting this.

Preston 5km Challenge for CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal.

Members of our parish have committed to a fundraising event: On Saturday 11th July 2020, you are invited to either walk, run, cycle or wheel 5km (3.1miles), choosing your individual routes and times. We will be taking up our challenges individually in the knowledge that we are together in spirit at one community event. Social distancing will be observed at all times. People are joining us from other Preston parishes and from beyond. Join in yourself by contacting Peter Towers using the facebook address below. JustGiving page and Facebook group: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cafodprestoncc> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/549868239250525/>

- **The Catholic Voice of Lancaster:** Our Diocesan newspaper for July is available but only online See: <http://www.catholicvoiceoflancaster.co.uk/>

- **Offertory Collection.** Please hold on to these unless you are suffering financially. If you want to make a standing order to the parish the parish bank details are: LRCDT St Anthony 40-27-02 81335308 please use your name as the reference. Thank you.