

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA

The Church of England worshipping in Word and Sacrament at Lago Jardín, Los Balcones and La Siesta and ministering through the southern Costa Blanca and eastern Murcia.

A truly Eucharistic community of faith and love.

Chaplain (equivalent of Parish Priest):

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Chaplaincy Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/anglicantorrevieja>

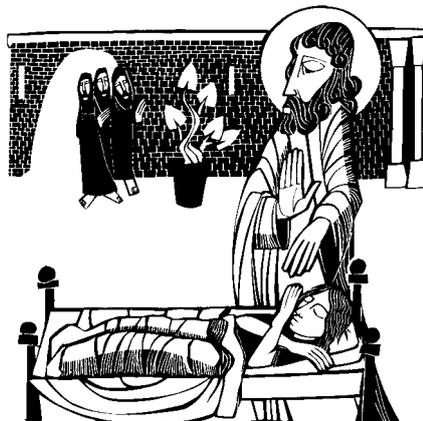
Chaplain's Facebook Group (to be used at the moment for livestreaming of liturgies):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja/>

FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27th June 2021

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**WELCOME TO THE CHAPLAINCY OF SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN
THIS CHAPLAINCY.**

Father Richard's usual working pattern is Sunday mornings, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Emails sent to him will be answered on these days. He is available on these days. He is, of course, able to be contacted at any time for funerals and emergencies. **HOWEVER FOR THE WEEKS BEGINNING SUNDAY 20TH AND SUNDAY 27TH, he will be working on Sunday mornings, Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays.**

Jill's Homemade Marmalade

Jill Dorsett is now selling homemade marmalade after each service. Please see her if you would like to buy / order some. Thank you, Jill!

Sue's Homemade Lemon Curd

Sue Brassington is now selling homemade lemon curd after each service. Please see her if you would like to buy / order some. Thank you, Sue!

FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHAPLAINCY

There are various ways of giving financially to the Chaplaincy for the work of the Church:

You can give in the plate each week.

You can join our envelope scheme to give a regular amount on a weekly basis – and set aside money for those weeks when you cannot be here.

You are encouraged to set up a standing order to the Chaplaincy – this helps us budget more effectively.

If you are a UK tax payer you can gift aid your giving.

If you are a Spanish tax payer you can have a tax offset by notifying your accountant when arranging your yearly tax along with the Spanish bank account number who will then arrange a claim and the money will be donated back to the Chaplaincy.

One off donations would be gratefully received to assist us at this difficult time. Thank you for your help.

For more information contact Father Richard, the Churchwardens, or your Congregational Warden.

From the Churchwardens:

Dear Friends in Christ

It is lovely to see many of you coming to church once more. We still have our COVID regulations in force and distancing which makes La Siesta Church a very safe place to be for you to worship in so we would encourage all those who are considering returning to do so and try it for yourself. We are sure that, if you are still staying at home, you are missing your Holy Communion. At the moment we receive only the Sacred Host and in that we receive the fullness of the Blessed Sacrament when we make our Holy Communion. Our team of volunteers who clean and disinfect the church pay a great deal of attention

to their duties and we thank them wholeheartedly for their dedication.

Father Richard can now, at a suitable distance, have a chat with you outside after the service and he would love to see you again.

A big, big thank you to all who have taken out standing orders. It has helped us a great deal in budgeting and planning. You may not be aware that we have paid our Common Fund payment of €4626.88 ahead of the scheduled date to receive a discount. We have also had to pay €617.10 for repairs to the plumbing system in the Chaplaincy office and we will have some Archdeaconry dues later this year. We really wish to encourage you to think about paying by standing order for us to plan our expenditure. The bank details are provided below. If you need help with this, we are here to show you how to set up a Standing Order.

Thank you to those who are giving in and saving up their collections in Gift Aid envelopes. This also is a great help as we can benefit from the tax return on these. WELL DONE everybody! We are continuing to keep the chaplaincy going and with Gods help we will survive this pandemic and all be together once more.

Spanish Bank details. Banco Sabadell. IBAN number ES65 0081 2061 7900 0106 0414
BSAB ESBB / Capellana Anglicana de Torrevieja

UK Bank details. Barclays Bank PLC Account name: Diocese in Europe Fund

Account number: 40317039 Sort code: 20-06-13. Please state TORREVIEJA as the reference so the money is correctly applied. The IBAN number is: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39.

Best wishes and thank you.

Jennifer and Peter



Church of England Chaplaincy of SS Peter and Paul, Torrevieja

We are a Covid 19 secure Chaplaincy. Please bear in mind your own self-care, your level of vulnerability and your age according to the risks involved. If you have COVID-19 symptoms please stay at home. You will be recorded as attending for track and trace purposes. A STRICT TWO METRE SOCIAL DISTANCING RULE IS IN PLACE. You will be shown to and escorted from your seat. Thank for your understanding and co-operation.

THE PANDEMIC AND THE MONTHS AHEAD

1. Lago Jardín Church will remain closed until further notice. This is because of the difficulty of social distancing in the church and its already limited capacity.
2. There is to be a building project to renovate the church but **Los Balcones church is now closed for the foreseeable future. It will re-open but it is impossible to say when. All services for the Chaplaincy will be held at La Siesta.**
3. La Siesta - these services will be for the whole Chaplaincy so please make every effort to be there and support the liturgical life of the Chaplaincy as we begin again in limited circumstances.

Future celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at La Siesta are:

Saturday 26 th June	1700
Tuesday 29 th June	1130 – SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES PATRONAL FESTIVAL
Sunday 4 th July	1130 – <i>Father Richard also celebrates twenty-eight years of being ordained to the Sacred Priesthood</i>
Saturday 10 th July	1700
Sunday 18 th July	1130
Saturday 24 th July	1700
Sunday 1 st August	1130
Saturday 7 th August	1700
Sunday 15 th August	1130 – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The live-streamed liturgies continue:

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja> and ask to join the group.
2. You will be asked three questions. Please complete them and agree to the rules of the group.
3. When the livestream starts it will appear on your device in the Facebook stream. The stream will start a few minutes before the broadcast so you can get settled in. You can only see this when I start the livestream.

"Participants in a streamed service of Holy Communion should not be encouraged to place bread and wine before their screens. Joining together to share in the one bread and the one cup as those physically present to one another is integral to the service of Holy Communion; ... and it is not helpful to suggest otherwise. Any idea of the 'remote consecration' of the bread and wine should be avoided."

The words above are an extract from a letter from Bishop Robert and Bishop David from 2nd April 2020. Under Church of England formularies the Priest himself must set the bread and wine upon the Altar which is going to be consecrated during the Eucharist.

This post underlines The Church of England position.

WORSHIP FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

Saturday 26 th June	1700	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 27 th June	1100	Holy Eucharist	<i>Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Monday 28 th June	1100	Holy Eucharist	<i>Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer and Holy Eucharist	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Tuesday 29 th June	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Wednesday 30 th June	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Thursday 1 st July	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Friday 2 nd July	<i>No live-streaming</i>		
Saturday 3 rd July	1700	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 4 th July	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>



The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín

Because Lago Jardín is not going to be used for the foreseeable future (until social distancing rules change) the Blessed Sacrament has been removed from Lago Jardín to be kept safely at the Chaplaincy House.

If you would like a Mass intention, please contact Father Richard.

The Chaplain's Prayer List for June 2021:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:

Baby Alex, Carol, Brian, David, Peter John, Terry, John Mileham, Mo and Bryan Bailey, Bernice, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons, Kathryn Moore, Isaac Jalal, Cathy Neil, Danny Gidman, Cassie Sampson, Father Terence, Sue Brassington, Jean Stacey, Gerry Hopkins, Father Helge, Solveig Petterson, Eileen Catlin; for all those suffering in mind, body and spirit as a result of the coronavirus.

Please pray for the recently departed:

Andrew Watts RIP, Sandy Stringfellow RIP, Inger Margrete Fredlund RIP, Christopher Sydney Flower RIP, Adrian Gareth Downing RIP.

For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus.

+ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Please advise Father Richard if there are any corrections to the above list.

If you wish a name to be added to the list of the sick you need to email Father Richard or write to him giving permission for yourself or ensure permission has been granted by someone else for their name to appear on this list. (GDPR regulations).

Please pray for the Anglican Church in Perú, for Bishop Jorge Aguilar, and the Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Laity there.

Father Richard's Study Group... meets, via Zoom, on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Please contact Father Richard if you would like to take part – all are welcome.

Making a Spiritual Communion. Something recommended for us all each day when we cannot participate in the Holy Eucharist.

Even if we are watching a livestreamed Mass (and the times of our Chaplaincy livestreamed celebrations of the Eucharist are listed in the newsletter) we are invited to pause when the Priest receives Holy Communion and make our own spiritual communion. We can say it silently to ourselves or speak it out loud. In this way we are joined with Our Lord in his suffering and death for the world and we are united to His Most Sacred Heart. In these most worrying of days we know Our Lord is there and we can join ourselves to him just as he joins himself with us. This is a great blessing, comfort and strength.

Choose one of these prayers:

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though you have already come, I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

or,

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you. I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.

Tuesday 29th June
SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES
1130 Holy Eucharist

It's our Patronal Festival!



You are invited to share in the Patronal Festival of the Chaplaincy at La Siesta. Father Richard hopes this will be a pivotal moment as we move from the Pandemic into the future. The prayers of our patrons, Ss Peter and Paul, have supported us during these long months. Both of our patrons endured great suffering for the sake of the Gospel.

At our Patronal Festival, let us join each other at the Altar, in the presence of our Heavenly Father, so that the offering of his Son, Our Blessed Lord, may be our Eucharistic thanksgiving for this day of joy in our Chaplaincy.

This will be followed by lunch at the Rendezvous Restaurant. Jennifer Saville is organising this so please give your name to her and please pay up front! 14 euros. Money cannot be returned if you don't come.

There will be a raffle.

*Peter the Apostle, and Paul the teacher of the Gentiles,
these have taught us your law, O Lord.*

Sunday 27th June 2021

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 46: 2

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

Collect

O God, who through the grace of adoption
chose us to be children of light,
grant, we pray,
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error
but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Wisdom 1:13-15,2:23-24

God takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living

Death was not God's doing,
he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living.
To be – for this he created all;
the world's created things have health in them,
in them no fatal poison can be found,
and Hades holds no power on earth;
for virtue is undying.

Yet God did make man imperishable,
he made him in the image of his own nature;
it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world,
as those who are his partners will discover.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 29(30):2,4-6,11-13

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing:
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

Second reading

2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15

The Lord Jesus became poor for your sake, to make you rich

You always have the most of everything – of faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of keenness for any cause, and the biggest share of our affection – so we expect you to put the most into this work of mercy too. Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was: he was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty. This does not mean that to give relief to others you ought to make things difficult for yourselves: it is a question of balancing what happens to be your surplus now against their present need, and one day they may have something to spare that will supply your own need. That is how we strike a balance: as scripture says: *The man who gathered much had none too much, the man who gathered little did not go short.*

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Jn6:63,68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Or:

cf.2Tim1:10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Our Saviour Jesus Christ abolished death
and he has proclaimed life through the Good News.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 5:21-43

Little girl, I tell you to get up

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.' Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him; they were pressing all round him.

Now there was a woman who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years; after long and painful treatment under various doctors, she spent all she had without being any the better for it, in fact, she was getting worse. She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his cloak. 'If I can touch even his clothes,' she had told herself 'I shall be well again.' And the source of the bleeding dried up instantly, and she felt in herself that she was cured of her complaint. Immediately aware that power had gone out from him, Jesus turned round in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' His disciples said to him, 'You see how the crowd is pressing round you and yet you say, "Who touched me?"' But he continued to look all round to see who had done it. Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at his feet and told him the whole truth. 'My daughter,' he said 'your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free from your complaint.'

While he was still speaking some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, 'Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?' But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, 'Do not be afraid; only have faith.' And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. So they came to the official's house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.' But they laughed at him. So he turned them all out and, taking with him the child's father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha, kum!' which means, 'Little girl, I tell you to get up.' The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

Homily

It often happens that we have it in mind to do something and we go about trying to do it. Then we are interrupted in some way; someone comes along that we were not expecting and holds us up and we don't get to do what he set out to do at the time we intended to do it. If you are a certain type of person you can get very annoyed by this. You can be there waiting for the person to move on so that you can get back to doing what you think you are supposed to be doing. We can all be a bit like that myself at times.

Yet, every encounter is in some way providential. What can seem initially like an interruption can be where we are meant to be. The person who unexpectedly crosses our path and who could be seen as interrupting what we have set out to do, can be one whom the Lord has sent into our life. Rather than seeing the encounter as interrupting something else, it can be better seen as a grace, an opportunity. What we set out to do may not be what is most important. Rather, the call of the present moment may be what really matters, the person who stands before us here and now.

We are reminded of all that by today's gospel encounter. One of the synagogue officials, Jairus, pleaded with Jesus to come to his daughter who was desperately sick. Jesus set out with him on this very important journey. On the way to the house of Jairus, Jesus had an encounter with a woman, which delayed him. It took up precious time. Yet, Jesus did not react angrily or dismissively to this interruption. Indeed, the contrary was the case. The woman with the flow of blood simply wanted to touch the clothing of Jesus, without holding him up in any way. It was Jesus who ensured that the fleeting encounter that the woman was looking for became, in reality, a truly personal encounter, a real meeting between two human beings. When Jesus noticed that power had gone out of him because of the woman touching his clothing, he stopped, turned around in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my clothing?' He wanted to meet this woman, in spite of the urgency of the journey on which he had set out. Eventually the woman came forward, frightened and trembling, not knowing what to expect. Jesus addressed her in very tender terms, 'My daughter', he said, 'your faith has restored you to health.' He engaged her in a very personal way; he called her into a personal relationship with him. This was the task of the moment. Some people would have seen this encounter as an unfortunate interruption; as a result of the delay Jairus' daughter had died before Jesus could get to the house. Yet, for Jesus this encounter with the woman was of ultimate significance; it was a moment of grace. It was the prelude to an even more wonderful moment of grace in the house of Jairus when Jesus not only healed the very sick girl as he was asked to do, but raised him from the dead.

The gospel encourages us to pay attention to the interruptions in life. What can seem like distractions can be where the Lord is calling us to be. When our plans do not work out as we wanted because of some unexpected turn of events, it may not be the disaster that we think it is at the time. Sometimes when our plans do not work out, it can create the space for something else to happen that we did not plan but which, in itself, can have great value for ourselves and for others. In the story we have just heard, Jesus gave himself fully to the interruption. He could have kept walking when the woman touched his clothing, but he attended to her. That was the call of the present moment for Jesus. In answering that call, he was doing God's work, and the task he initially set out to accomplish did not suffer. Jairus had his daughter restored to him. There are times in life when we need to embrace the interruptions, rather than just driving on with our head down towards the goal we have set for ourselves. We can misjudge where the real work lies. We often need to come to a deeper appreciation that the interruptions are our work, especially when they involve responding with compassion to the needs of others. When we set out on a journey, what happens on the way can be more important than arriving at our destination.

The Nicene ("Niceno-Constantinopolitan") Creed

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,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.
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.

THE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Jesus shows us the love of God our Father. With confidence in this love we turn to him with our prayers:
For the Church throughout the world, that all the faithful may bring hope and new life to our world. *(pause) Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*
For peace in our world, that communities may work together to end violence and so bring lasting peace for their children. *(pause) Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*
For our children and young people, that they may always walk in friendship with Jesus Christ. *(pause) Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*
For our Eucharistic community, that each one of us will always treasure God's gift of life and do all we can to protect it. *(pause) Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*
For those who mourn the death of a child, that they may be granted comfort and strength in their pain. *(pause) Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*
For all who are sick or infirm, lonely or unloved, that they will know the healing touch of Christ in their lives. *(pause) Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*
God our Father, you have revealed your love for us in the death and Resurrection of Jesus your Son. Increase our love for one another that we may be your disciples in name and in truth. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Hymn: <https://youtu.be/bA0zJnW1Rr8>

Thursday 24th June was the Solemnity of The Nativity of S. John the Baptist.

This is from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/nativity-of-saint-john-the-baptist>

Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him: "I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John...." But John would have agreed completely with what Jesus added: "[Y]et the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he" (Luke 7:28).



John spent his time in the desert, an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism, he said, was for repentance. But one would come who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John was not worthy even to untie his sandals. His attitude toward Jesus was: "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).

John was humbled to find among the crowd of sinners who came to be baptized the one whom he already knew to be the Messiah. "I need to be baptized by you" (Matthew 3:14b). But Jesus insisted, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15b). Jesus, true and humble human as well as eternal God, was eager to do what was required of any good Jew. Jesus thus publicly entered the community of those awaiting the Messiah. But making himself part of that community, he made it truly messianic.

The greatness of John, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself—both made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly deferred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus.

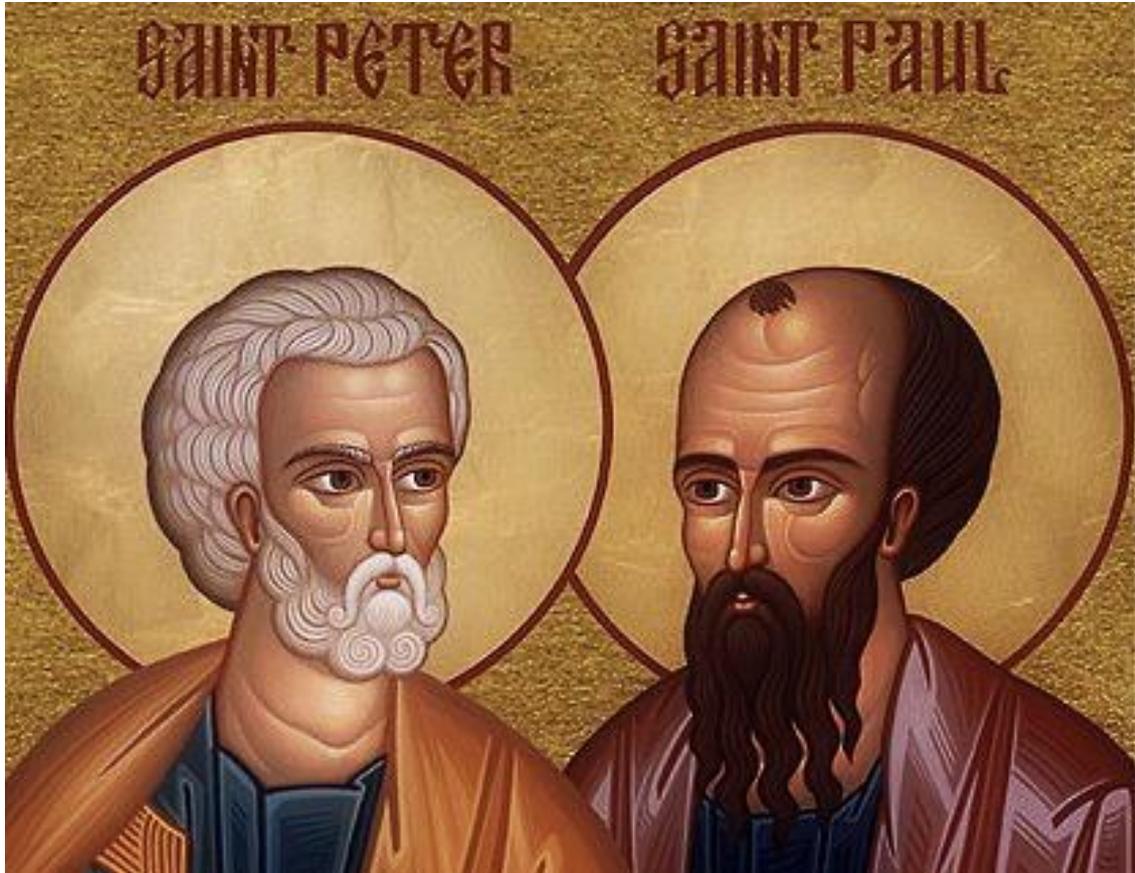
Perhaps John's idea of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not being perfectly fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus. For whatever reason, when he was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus' answer showed that the Messiah was to be a figure like that of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. John himself would share in the pattern of messianic suffering, losing his life to the revenge of Herodias.

Reflection

John challenges us Christians to the fundamental attitude of Christianity—total dependence on the Father, in Christ. Except for the Mother of God, no one had a higher function in the unfolding of salvation. Yet the least in the kingdom, Jesus said, is greater than he, for the pure gift that the Father gives. The attractiveness as well as the austerity of John, his fierce courage in denouncing evil—all stem from his fundamental and total placing of his life within the will of God.

Tuesday 29th June is the Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles – our Patronal Festival

This is from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-peter-and-paul>



Peter (d. 64) Saint Mark ends the first half of his Gospel with a triumphant climax. He has recorded doubt, misunderstanding, and the opposition of many to Jesus. Now Peter makes his great confession of faith: “You are the Messiah” (Mark 8:29b). It was one of the many glorious moments in Peter’s life, beginning with the day he was called from his nets along the Sea of Galilee to become a fisher of men for Jesus.

The New Testament clearly shows Peter as the leader of the apostles, chosen by Jesus to have a special relationship with him. With James and John he was privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of a dead child to life, and the agony in Gethsemane. His mother-in-law was cured by Jesus. He was sent with John to prepare for the last Passover before Jesus’ death. His name is first on every list of apostles.

And to Peter only did Jesus say, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:17b-19).

But the Gospels prove their own trustworthiness by the unflattering details they include about Peter. He clearly had no public relations person. It is a great comfort for ordinary mortals to know that Peter also has his human weakness, even in the presence of Jesus.

He generously gave up all things, yet he can ask in childish self-regard, "What are we going to get for all this?" (see Matthew 19:27). He receives the full force of Christ's anger when he objects to the idea of a suffering Messiah: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Matthew 16:23b).

Peter is willing to accept Jesus' doctrine of forgiveness, but suggests a limit of seven times. He walks on the water in faith, but sinks in doubt. He refuses to let Jesus wash his feet, then wants his whole body cleansed. He swears at the Last Supper that he will never deny Jesus, and then swears to a servant maid that he has never known the man. He loyally resists the first attempt to arrest Jesus by cutting off Malchus' ear, but in the end he runs away with the others. In the depth of his sorrow, Jesus looks on him and forgives him, and he goes out and sheds bitter tears. The Risen Jesus told Peter to feed his lambs and his sheep (John 21:15-17).

Paul (d. 64) Paul's life when he started preaching shows that that Christ alone can save us. He had been the most pharisaic of Pharisees, the most legalistic of Mosaic lawyers. Now he suddenly appears to other Jews as a heretical welcomer of Gentiles, a traitor and apostate.

Paul's central conviction was simple and absolute: Only God can save humanity. No human effort—even the most scrupulous observance of law—can create a human good which we can bring to God as reparation for sin and payment for grace. To be saved from itself, from sin, from the devil, and from death, humanity must open itself completely to the saving power of Jesus.

Paul never lost his love for his Jewish family, though he carried on a lifelong debate with them about the uselessness of the Law without Christ. He reminded the Gentiles that they were grafted on the parent stock of the Jews, who were still God's chosen people, the children of the promise.

Reflection

We would probably go to confession to Peter sooner than to any of the other apostles. He is perhaps a more striking example of the simple fact of holiness. Jesus says to us as he said, in effect, to Peter: "It is not you who have chosen me, but I who have chosen you. Peter, it is not human wisdom that makes it possible for you to believe, but my Father's revelation. I, not you, build my Church." Paul's experience of the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus was the driving force that made him one of the most zealous, dynamic, and courageous ambassadors of Christ the Church has ever had. But persecution, humiliation, and weakness became his day-by-day carrying of the cross, material for further transformation. The dying Christ was in him; the living Christ was his life.

The Angelus



The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it unto me according to Thy Word.

Hail Mary, (as above)

And the Word was made flesh,
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, (as above)

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of thy son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by His + cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**