

Saints Peter and Paul (Year A)

Matthew 16:13–19

'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.'

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

Reflection

Today we celebrate two great disciples of Jesus, Saints Peter and Paul. In the Gospel, we hear Jesus calling Peter to be the first pope, the shepherd and guide for God's people on earth. It is from this moment that the Church begins to take shape. Our current Pope is the successor of Peter, and that line of leadership has continued unbroken from Peter's time to the present day.

We also celebrate Paul, whose dramatic conversion led him to become one of the Church's greatest missionaries, travelling far and wide to share the Good News of Jesus with others. Both Peter and Paul were called by God not because they were perfect, but because they were willing to respond to His call. As Vincentians, we are reminded that God sees gifts and potential in each of us and invites us to use them in service of others. We pray today for the Pope, our bishops, and all those called to lead and serve the Church.

Materials needed

- Pens
- Paper

Activity

Peter and Paul used their different gifts to help build the Church and share God's love with others. As Vincentians, we are called to work together in the same way. No one person has every gift, but together we can achieve far more than we can alone.

As a group, spend a few minutes identifying the gifts, talents, and strengths that are present among your members. These might include being a good listener, organising events, encouraging others, being creative, speaking confidently, working well with younger children, fundraising, or noticing when someone needs help.

Once you have shared your gifts, discuss how you could combine them to serve others. Is there a need in your school, parish, or local community that your group could respond to? Perhaps you could organise a fundraiser, support a local care home, run a collection for a food bank, welcome new pupils, or create an initiative to tackle loneliness.

Together, agree on one practical action that uses the gifts of as many group members as possible. Write down your idea and identify the different roles each person could play.

Call to Action

Peter and Paul used their different gifts to build up the Church. This week, don't just recognise the gifts within your group – put them to work. Commit to one practical act of service that uses everyone's strengths and talents, and take the first step towards making it happen. Working together, you can achieve far more than any one person could alone.

