

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

FIRST READING: Acts 12:1-11.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 34.

RESPONSE:

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad. **R**
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. **R**
3. Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This lowly one called; the Lord heard, and rescued him from all his distress. **R**
4. The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who revere him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed be the man who seeks refuge in him. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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: Matthew 16:13-19.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 30 Jun (1st Martyrs of the Church of Rome)

Genesis 18:16-33; Psalm 103; Matthew 18:18-22

Wherever the Good News of Jesus was preached, it met the same opposition as Jesus did. The blood of martyrs has always been, and will always be, the seed of Christians.

Tue 1 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 19:15-29; Psalm 26; Matthew 8:23-27

"I always thought that belief precedes action, and sometimes it does. But all too often, it is practices that shape us, that change our beliefs and help us internalize them in ways that are transformative." – Karen González

Wed 2 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 21:5.8-20; Psalm 34; Matthew 8:28-34

"The practice of hospitality reflects a willingness on the part of a community ... to be open to others and to their insights, needs, and contributions ... recognizing that they have a treasure to share with them." – Christine Pohl

Thu 3 Jul ST THOMAS, A

Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 117; John 20:24-29

Holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ.

Fri 4 Jul (St Elizabeth of Portugal)

Genesis 23:1-4.19; 24.1-8.62-67; Psalm 106; Matt 9:9-13

Elizabeth had a deep and sincere love and sympathy for humankind, an almost total lack of concern for herself, and an abiding confidence in God. These were the tools of her success.

Sat 5 Jul (St Anthony Zaccaria, Pr)

Genesis 27:1-5.15-29; Psalm 135; Matthew 9:14-17

Today we still need prophets, like St Anthony Zaccaria, to stand up and tell us, "If we say 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

Sun 6 Jul 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66; Luke 10:1-12.17-20

"We all are called to welcome our brothers and sisters who are fleeing from war, hunger, violence.... All together we are a great supportive force for those who have lost their homelands, families, work, and dignity." – Pope Francis

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
Pr=Priest; B=Bishop; P=Pope

Catholic Link

PILGRIMS OF HOPE – PETER & PAUL

Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles • Year C
Divine Office: Week 1 • 29 June 2025

The Making of Pilgrim Leaders

Many years ago, while I was leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I discovered that the real reason why a particular man was with us was to find a Palestinian bride! (He didn't.)

On any pilgrimage one or two people will stand out as leaders; they will be the first to help fellow pilgrims; they will make helpful suggestions and take the initiative when necessary. Likewise, there will always be a few malcontents who are never happy with whatever arrangements are made. They often complain and rarely say thanks.

Simon and Saul stand out among their contemporaries as leaders. Simon was the first to speak, for himself and for everybody else. He was impetuous but good-hearted. Saul, a Pharisee, got himself

appointed prosecutor of a group of dissident Jews who were followers of Jesus of Nazareth.

Simon, whom Jesus had renamed Peter, was the clear leader of the new group gathered around Jesus. He was strong in his convictions about Jesus, and he publicly asserted that he would follow Jesus – even to death. That is, until he met a serving girl who challenged him round the fire when Jesus had been arrested. This led to his denial of Christ. The look that Jesus gave him after that was a turning point in Peter's life. Peter wept.

Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, was just arriving at Damascus when his world fell apart. Paul was blinded. His world changed for ever in that roadside encounter with the Risen, Glorious, Jesus.

Despite Peter's denials, the Risen Lord

confirmed Peter in his leadership role. Peter became the first in proclaiming the faith; he established the early Church from the remnant of Judaism. Peter became a model pilgrim

for the rest of his life. He remained an impetuous character but showed remarkable humility in his dealings with other Christians, even with Paul. His inner pilgrimage is known to God alone, but it bore fruit in sharing the very kind of death that Jesus had endured, except that Peter was crucified upside down, a mark of being a slave. That was in Rome in the year 67.

Paul became the acknowledged leader of the first great missionary outreach. He took the Gospel from its Jewish beginnings to the pagan worlds of Greece and Rome.

His series of missionary journeys set the stage for the pilgrim Church, a Church at the disposal of the Mission of God.

Paul shared something of his own interior pilgrimage in his letters. To the Galatian Christians he wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ, and I live now not with my own life, but with the life of Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:19,20). Blessed with extraordinary graces, Paul nevertheless had extraordinary struggles to deal with, leading him to confess to the Corinthians, "It is when I am weak that I am strong" (2 Cor 12:10).

Paul's pilgrimage came to an end by his being beheaded as a martyr. That was in Rome in the year 67.

Saints Peter and Paul, missionary "pilgrims of hope", pray for us on our pilgrimage of faith.



The resurrected Jesus Christ surrounded by Saint Peter, Saint Paul and two angels by Antonio Moro, 16th C, in the the Musée Condé.

Just as he encountered Mary Magdalene with the question, "Why are you weeping?", Jesus continues to come to those who mourn the death of loved ones. A new and revised version of the very popular first edition, this book is offered in the hope that it will bring readers who are grappling with questions of faith and feelings of loss, into contact with the compassion of Jesus.



R80
plus delivery

Order from our website www.rpp.org.za or email orders@rpp.org.za. Enquiries: 082 667 3857.

