



# Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

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## Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A) 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

Thank You to all who have contributed to the Priest Training Fund annual collection on GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY. If you still wish to contribute, let Fr. Ivano know. (You can still use the QR code to make a donation online or visit [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations))

NO weekday Mass during this week

The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the **Rosary**. Last Wednesday, at the end of his Audience, Pope Francis recalled the request made by the Virgin Mary to the three shepherds of Fatima, "pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world and the end of war".



At the end of the Rosary, you can say the following prayer:

*"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;  
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from every danger,  
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin"*



SCAN to GIVE  
You can scan this QR  
code for your weekly  
Sunday donation.  
Thank you.

We remember in prayer Maya & Jayden,  
Reginald & Matthew, Scarlett & Georgia,  
who will be confirmed on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

# free to be Saint?



"How is it that this man exhibits so much joy with death so close? Should he not rather keep pondering over his near death?" In the 'lives of saints' of the period, the manner of dying was an important element of the process which elevated a person to the rank of a 'Saint'. Even more, the founder of an order should have left this world in a state of prayer and inner recollection, blessing his spiritual children as they would pour out tears. This was what his *entourage* had in mind... not Francis!

Whilst nursed in the Bishop's House in Assisi, Francis had asked two of his brothers to sing out aloud the "Praises of the Lord" throughout the whole night to lift up his spirit and that of those keeping guard around the House. But all this noise, all this joyful singing seemed to do harm to his reputation. Moreover, a few days before his death, Francis had asked to see a Roman noblewoman, Jacopa dei Settesoli, a widow for whom Francis had a deep friendship. She had brought with her a grey cloth for the burial, a small cushion to go under the head, wax-candles, perfumed incense and a *mostacciuolo*, a local almond-cake, made of sugar and honey, covered with dark chocolate. Again, not really what his *entourage* was expecting. First of all, a woman was not meant to enter the Porziuncola, the small chapel where Francis wanted to die, and when Francis overcame the obstacle by giving her the title of 'Brother Jacopa' it did not go too well with some. Even more, a 'Saint to be', worthy of the name of "another Christ" should not have died eating cakes!

The choice of poverty, the care for the lepers, the love for the Church, the preaching of the Gospel, the mission, the stigmata in his body, the love for the mystery of the Incarnation... what is it that made this man into a Saint?

**Inner freedom.** The freedom to risk and leave family and riches, freedom to break barriers, to do what had not been done before, freedom to ask & receive from God according to His Will, freedom to die with a sweet almond and chocolate taste in the mouth!

Have you ever asked God for the gift of such a freedom?

Why don't you try during these Easter days?

If you find the time, visit the new exhibition on Saint Francis on show, for free, at the National Gallery, it may inspire you!

*fr. Ivano*

Father Ivano