

Homily St Peter and St Paul A 2020

As we gather to celebrate two of our greatest ancestors in the faith, do you ever wonder what is passing through their minds. Surely, they are remembering key moments in their lives. Peter will have so many memories of being with Jesus and no matter how often he misunderstood or spoke without thinking, deep down he knew that Jesus truly loved him just as he was. Paul will most certainly remember that day on the road to Damascus. A moment when his life fell into place because he had made the discovery of a life time – or, was it Jesus who had made the discovery? And how, after that, he kept discovering new wonders about his saviour; wonders that he had to share with others and that inspired and motivated his letters.

Well they are here with us now – they never miss a celebration especially where Jesus is concerned. They want you to feel their presence because it is a presence that emanates the love, trust and belief they have in Jesus and the love, trust and belief Jesus had in them. And they do this so that we too will experience more wondrously our love, trust and belief in Jesus and Jesus' love trust and belief in us. It is bit like having the two best players in our sports team and that, with them, we are invincible. And yes, we are a team in which all members are important and essential which is why we prefer to call ourselves a family; Peter and Paul being our favourite uncles that we love to have around because of the stories they tell and because they make us feel special and loved. Peter offers these words of encouragement:

“Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! God has given us a new birth because of his great mercy. We have been born into a new life that has a confidence which is alive because Jesus Christ has come back to life. We have been born into a new life which has an inheritance that cannot be destroyed or corrupted and cannot fade away. That inheritance is kept in heaven for you, since you are guarded by God’s power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.” ¹

Pt 1:3-5

And Paul reminds us that Jesus *“is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. He created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. Whether they are kings or lords, rulers or powers — everything has been created through him and for him.”* Col 1:15-16 Carol Wimmer unwraps what being a follower of Christ means:

When I say, “I am a Christian”

I’m not shouting, “I’ve been saved!”

I’m whispering, “I get lost!

That’s why I chose this way”.

When I say, “I am a Christian”

I don’t speak with human pride

I’m confessing that I stumble –

Needing God to be my guide

When I say, “I am a Christian”

I’m not trying to be strong

I’m professing that I’m weak

And pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed
And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be taught.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are all too visible
But God believes that I am worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache,
Which is why I seek His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority...
I only know I'm loved!

Another snail Joke

A snail named Samuel had just received a raise working as an estate agent. With his extra money he decided to buy a custom sports car with a big "S" for Samuel on the side to show everyone that the car was his. While he's showing off his new car on the road, he passes an elderly couple sitting on their veranda. As he drives past the man exclaims to his wife,
"Look at that S-Car-Go!"