

Reflection Wednesday Week 13 Sts Peter & Paul 2022

In his writings, St Augustine says the two martyrs, Peter and Paul, had seen what they proclaimed giving their testimony so much more power. *Their sound has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world*, he writes, because they had seen what they proclaimed. They not only confessed the truth but also died for the truth. Peter who became first among the apostles was an ardent lover of Christ and was deemed worthy to hear from Jesus, *And I say to you, that you are Peter*. Because of his outspoken proclamation that Jesus was *the Christ, the Son of the living God*, Christ said to him, *And I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church*. Upon this rock, upon Peter, a solid pillar of the Church, Jesus built the faith that he had just proclaimed. Peter comes from *petra*, meaning a rock in the same way as the name Christian comes from Christ.

Before his passion the Lord Jesus chose the disciples whom he called apostles. Among these Peter nearly always had the privilege of representing the whole Church. It was in the person of the whole Church, which he alone represented, that he was privileged to hear, *To you will I give the keys of the kingdom of heaven*. These keys were not just given to one man but to the Church. Peter stands for the Church's universality and unity. In being told, *To you I am entrusting*, it was entrusted to all. To show that the Church received the keys of the kingdom of heaven, Jesus said to all his apostles: *Receive the Holy Spirit; and immediately afterwards, Whose sins you forgive, they will be forgiven them; whose sins you retain, they will be retained*. So, after his resurrection the Lord entrusted his sheep to Peter to be fed. It is not that he alone was fit to feed the Lord's sheep for when Christ speaks to one man, unity is being commended to us.

Today we celebrate two apostles. But these two also were as one; although they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, Paul followed. We are celebrating a feast day, consecrated for us by the blood of the apostles. Let us love their faith, their lives, their labours, their sufferings, their confession of faith and their preaching.

What's the key to a good postman joke? The delivery.

What kind of key opens a banana A mon-key.

If you're ever locked outside your home Just calmly talk with the lock. WHY? Because communication is key