

Reflection Thursday Week 12 Sts Peter and Paul 2023

Peter and Paul were two great leaders from very different backgrounds, each with different qualities of leadership, but each invaluable. Both of them failed Jesus in different ways. Paul was anti-Christian from the moment the followers of Christ began spreading the good news of Jesus. Peter, despite protesting his undying faith, betrayed Jesus the night of his arrest. Their failures, however, became their source of strength in terms of their leadership. Persecution suffering, and hardship were no longer obstacles because they greeted them with acceptance and thanksgiving for the mercy, forgiveness and love Jesus had shown them.

A Benedictine reflection: *We are urgently called to live a **holy hope** today! Writing to the Romans, Paul speaks of God as the God of hope. He presents this hope as a gift to be received and tended with care. Paul states that: Hope never disappoints!*

Called the apostle of grace and faith, hope is also central to Paul's teaching. He believes that hope leads to our experience of love being poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given to us.

If hope is emphasised in Paul's writings, it is probably true, however, to say that Peter is best described as the apostle of hope. The life circumstances of Peter made him best suited to being God's messenger of hope. In his writings, Peter refers to the living hope given through Christ. Peter speaks in this way because he experienced this to be true in his own life. What Peter learned throughout his life, and what he so ably shares with us, is that hope is alive when you live with Christ. Peter experienced this because of his failures and falls, even when one fails radically, there is always hope in Jesus! Peter rejoiced in this hope and kept hope going, even when he failed. As Peter wrote so he came to believe: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

To whoever stole my antidepressants, I hope you're happy now!

A couple took a long, leisurely drive in the country and stopped for petrol and add air to the tyres. The wife was surprised to see that the petrol station charged to fill the tires and asked her husband, "Why in the world do they charge for AIR?!"

Husband, "Inflation!!!"