

# CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sunday 28th June

THE SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER & ST PAUL

Be My Friend



St John Fisher  
Catholic Church,  
Perivale

# OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross



And our Opening Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have called Saints Peter and Paul to be your followers,  
help us to be your friends by copying their examples.*

*Amen*

# INTRODUCTION

## Be my friend!

Today we hear how Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom of Heaven. Let's find out why, and what it means for us.

When we are friend to someone it is quite normal to share something, we have with them. It happens to argue and disagree among friends. However, good friends always reconcile and get back together. Today, the Church invites us to read and know more about the lives of saints Peter and Paul. These were really two good friends of Jesus. They have their own moments of discouragements. They have doubted, but in the end, they have followed Christ, their best friend!

**Who is a good friend to you?**

**Jesus wants to be your friend, and what about you?**

**Do you want to be his friend?**



# TODAY'S GOSPEL



Say the Alleluia

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
Never fear, never fear  
We believe and trust in God  
Alleluia, alleluia*

Read today's Gospel

(Matthew 16: 13-19)

A reading from the Good News given to us by St Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

One day Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?', 'Some people say that you are John the Baptist; others say that you are Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the other wise prophets from the past.' Then Jesus said, 'But who do you say that I am?' The disciples were silent until Peter said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus smiled at Peter and said, 'My heavenly Father has helped you to understand this, You are Peter (Petros), and on this rock (Petra) I will build my church. I will give you the keys of the kingdoms of heaven; whatever you will enforce here on earth will be enforced in heaven, whatever you dismiss here on earth will be dismissed in heaven.'

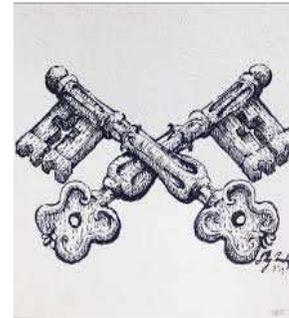
The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

In today's Gospel, Jesus was so impressed with Simon that he gave him a new name. Can you remember what that new name was?

Jesus said that he would build his church upon **Simon Peter**. Jesus also gave him the keys to the kingdom of Heaven.

Have you ever seen these keys in a flag before?

You can see them in the flag of the Vatican City, the place where the pope lives.



St. Peter was chosen by Jesus to spread the good news about Him and shepherd his people. That is why the responsibility given to St. Peter has continued throughout the ages and now our Pope - Pope Francis, is continuing the work started by St Peter.

Keys lock doors, but they also open them. As a disciple, Peter spent his time sharing Jesus' message with other people. He opened their hearts to God's love, just like a key opens a door.

Jesus says to Peter "You are Peter (Petros), and on this rock (Petra) I will build my church."

Now let us also talk a bit of St Paul. The other saint we are celebrating today.

### *Why is St Paul important and dear to us?*

First of all, he was a great missionary. A missionary is a person who spends most of their life going around, from place to place, sharing the Good News about Jesus. He wrote a lot of letters to his friends inviting them to live their lives as friends of Jesus. During Mass on Sunday, the second reading we hear is often part of one of his letters.

Just like Peter and Paul, **Jesus invites each one of us to be his friends.**

### *What is the Church?*

The church is the place where all the friends of Jesus meet together to know more about him and celebrate their friendship. The Church is a building made of people. It is like a family, just a bigger one. The more we are, the better it is, because we help one another and we are never left alone.



# CLOSING PRAYER



*Dear Lord,*

*We pray that we may come to be good friends of yours  
by copying and following the example of Saints Peter and Paul.*

*Amen*





## ACTIVITY

**Can you think of some words that show us what Jesus asks us to do?  
(for example: love, believe, forgive, give, share, hope etc)**

**These are just like the keys to God's kingdom - which open us up to  
God's love.**

**This week let's try to be more loving, more forgiving  
and more generous to others.**

**Let us try to help more the people near to us, starting in our family.**

Acknowledgements

Inspiration for this lesson taken from the book 'The Liturgy of the Word with Children' by Katie Thompson and  
<<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>>