

Weekly Newsletter

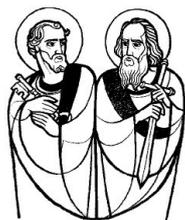
Sunday 28th June 2020

Ss Peter and Paul Psalter Week 1

The Parish of the Holy Trinity,
Stroud Green



with
Holy Innocents, Hornsey



Seeking to know and serve God and our local community



Peter and Paul, whose feast day it is today, are something of an odd couple. Both are central figures in the expansion of the church from Jerusalem into the Mediterranean world, yet both are quite flawed characters. Peter, ever impulsive, ever drawing back from his initial commitment, is more often like a candle in the wind than someone ablaze with the Spirit. Jesus, before and after his resurrection, had to draw Peter back to his mission of becoming a fisher of men, not relapsing into a mere fisherman. Paul, in his early Letter to the Galatians, talks of withstanding Cephas (Peter) to his face in an argument over whether the gentile converts had to follow the full rigour of Jewish Law. Peter had been saying different things to different audiences in the hope of avoiding trouble.

Yet Paul's relationship with Peter was not always confrontational. In the same letter he talks of journeying to Jerusalem, in the first flush of his conversion, to learn how Jesus was perceived by those who had accompanied him; and again, to seek the endorsement of Peter and other apostles and elders of the Jerusalem church for his mission and preaching to the gentiles. Paul himself was a controversial figure – his insistence that his gentile converts should not be bound by the full rigour of Jewish Law ignited the anger of those Jewish Christians who believed that Christianity should remain firmly rooted in Judaism. His rapidly changing companions reflect the difficulty of working with Paul. However, from this confrontation a consensus was reached, depicted by Luke in Acts in the phrase 'it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us ...' (Acts 15:28).

And in this surely lies their importance for us. As Christians we are inheritors of a faith and tradition 'which faith the church is called upon to proclaim afresh in every generation.' It is important that, inspired by the Spirit, we have the freedom to take initiatives for the sake of the Gospel, but these initiatives have ultimately to be validated by tradition handed on from the apostles. If we are to honour the two princes of the apostles, we must try to hold in creative tension the core truths of the faith, and how we might fruitfully live these out in the new contexts in which we find ourselves in these strange times.

Tuesday Mass and Talk

This week on Tuesday we will 'Zoom' the weekday 7.30 pm Mass and follow it at 8.00 pm with a continuation of the 'Visions of God' Lent group we started but had to abandon. We will be looking at one or two works of art and seeing what they say to us about our faith.

Re-opening the church for private prayer

We will open the church this Sunday afternoon from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm for private prayer, and hope to have the church open every Sunday afternoon for private prayer until we are able to hold public services again. However, to do this we need volunteers to be present in the church to manage the flow of entry into the church, and to clean it afterwards. These volunteers must be under 70 and must **not** be people who need to shield. If you are under 70, not shielding and feel you might be able to facilitate opening the church, please contact Fr. Patrick. Thank you to those people who have already put their names forward.

Sunday and weekday Masses

Sunday 11.30 am and Tuesday 7.30 pm Masses are now streamed from the church itself via Zoom. Please email Fr. Patrick for a Zoom meeting ID and password if you do not already have it.