

**Communion Antiphon:** Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

**Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible**

**Excerpt of the Homily by Pope Benedict XVI on the Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul, 29 June 2010**

In their great wealth, the biblical texts of this Eucharistic Liturgy on the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul highlight a theme that could be summed up in these words: God is close to his faithful servants and delivers them from all evil and delivers the Church from negative powers. It is the theme of the Church's freedom, that presents an historical aspect and another that is more profoundly spiritual.

This theme runs through the whole of today's Liturgy of the Word. The First and Second Readings speak respectively of St Peter and St Paul, stressing God's liberating action in their regard.

The text of the Acts of the Apostles especially describes with an abundance of detail the intervention of the Angel of the Lord who sets Peter free from his chains and leads him out of the prison of Jerusalem in which Herod the King had had him locked up and placed under strict surveillance (cf. Acts 12:1-11).

Paul, on the other hand, in writing to Timothy when he felt he was approaching the end of his earthly life, makes a concise summary of it from which emerges the fact that the Lord has always been close to him, has delivered him from many dangers and will free him again, introducing him into his eternal Kingdom (cf. 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18).

The theme is reinforced by the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 34 [33]), and is also given a special development in the Gospel passage of Peter's profession where Christ promises that the powers of death shall not prevail over the Church (cf. Mt 16:18).

A close look at this theme reveals a certain progression. In the First Reading a specific episode is recounted that shows the Lord's intervention to release Peter from prison.

In the Second Reading Paul, on the basis of his extraordinary apostolic experience, says that he is convinced that the Lord, who has already rescued him 'from the lion's mouth', will rescue him 'from every evil', opening the gates of Heaven to him; on the other hand, in the Gospel nothing further is said of the individual Apostles but it speaks rather of the Church as a whole and of her indemnity from the forces of evil, meant in the full and profound sense.

Thus we see that Jesus' promise — 'the powers of death shall not prevail against' the Church — does indeed include the historical experiences of persecution that Peter and Paul and other

Gospel witnesses suffered, but goes beyond them, with the intention of assuring protection, especially from threats of a spiritual kind; in accordance with what Paul himself writes in his Letter to the Ephesians: 'for we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the

principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present world of darkness, against the evil spirits in the heavens' (cf. Eph 6:12).

Indeed if we think of the two millennia of the Church's history, we may note — as the Lord Jesus had foretold (cf. Mt 10:16-33) — that trials for Christians have never been lacking and in certain periods and places have assumed the character of true and proper persecution. Yet, despite the suffering they cause, they do not constitute the gravest danger for the Church. Indeed she is subjected to the greatest danger by what pollutes the faith and Christian life of her members and communities, corroding the integrity of the Mystical Body, weakening her capacity for prophecy and witness, and marring the beauty of her face.

The Pauline Letters already testified to this reality. The First Letter to the Corinthians, for example, responds precisely to certain problems of division, inconsistency and infidelity to the Gospel that seriously threaten the Church. However, the Second Letter to Timothy — a passage to which we listened — also speaks of the perils of the 'last days', identifying them with negative attitudes that belong to the world and can contaminate the Christian community: selfishness, vanity, pride, the attachment to money, etc. (cf. 3:1-5).

The Apostle's conclusion is reassuring: men who do evil, he writes, 'will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all' (3:9). Therefore a guarantee exists of the freedom that God assures the Church, freedom both from material ties that seek to prevent or to coerce her mission and from spiritual and moral evils that can tarnish her authenticity and credibility.

I would like to draw one last instruction from the word of God, and in particular from Christ's promise that the powers of death will not prevail over His Church. These words can also have an ecumenical meaning since one of the typical effects of the action of the Evil One is, precisely, the internal division of the ecclesial Community. Ruptures are in fact symptoms of the power of sin that continues to act in members of the Church even after the redemption. However, Christ's word is clear: '*Non praevalent* — they shall not prevail' (Mt 16:18).

The unity of the Church is rooted in her union with Christ and the cause of full Christian unity — that must ever be sought and renewed, from generation to generation — is also sustained by His prayer and His promise.

In the struggle against the spirit of evil, God gave us in Jesus, the 'Advocate' defender, and after his Pasch, 'another Counsellor' (cf. Jn 14:16), the Holy Spirit, who stays with us always and leads the Church towards the fullness of the truth (cf. Jn 14:16; 16:13) that is also the fullness of love and of unity.



**First Friday & Saturday Prayer of Reparation**

O Jesus, divine Saviour, and Blessed Mary, most holy mother of God, my soul can never conceive the sufferings, insults and indignities offered to your Sacred and Immaculate Hearts. I therefore offer all my pains, sufferings, prayers, sacrifices, and joys in reparation for all offences committed against you. Amen.



## SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL - YEAR C 29 JUNE 2025

**JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"**



“There must be general rejoicing over this holy company whom God has appointed for our example in patience and for our confirmation in faith. But we must glory even more in the excellence of their fathers, Peter and Paul, whom the grace of God has raised to such a height among all the members of the Church that He has set them like twin lights of eyes in that Body whose head is Christ.”  
- Pope St Leo the Great

**Entrance Antiphon:** These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

**First Reading** Acts 12:1-11

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. ‘Get up!’ he said, ‘Hurry!’ – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, ‘Put on your belt and sandals.’ After he had done this, the angel next said, ‘Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.’ Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. ‘Now I know it is all true,’ he said. ‘The Lord really did send His angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.’

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 33:2-9

**R: The Lord set me free from all my fears.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise His name. I sought the Lord and He answered me; from all my terrors He set me free. **R.**

3. Look towards Him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

4. The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who revere Him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. He is happy who seeks refuge in Him. **R.**

**Second Reading** Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy**

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for His Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Matthew 16:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!** You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Matthew 16:13-19

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi He put this question to His disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say He is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ He said, ‘who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up, ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build My Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.’

♦ **The Gospel of the Lord.**





# Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

*Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale*

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul - Year C

June 29, 2025



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Website: [www.sacredheartinverell.org.au](http://www.sacredheartinverell.org.au)  
Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell  
Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066

## Parish Office Hours:

Monday 30 June & Friday 4 July - 8am to 1pm

Tuesday 1 July - 8am to 12 Noon

Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler

PPC Chair: Mr Matthew Rennie

Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger

Parish Secretary: Peter Turner

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**We pray for:** Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time, especially Ernie Muggleton; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

### the Recently Deceased:

Greg Leach, Joan Fleming, Lloyd Fleming, Yvonne Mowle, Denise Hills.

### the sick:

Chris Perceval, David Miron, Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish. Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick.

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am  
Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

**Planned Giving Program:** If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

## JUNE - THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

### MONDAY 30th

Feast Day of the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome (Pg.1831)

**No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm**

## JULY - THE MONTH OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

### TUESDAY 1st

Tuesday of the 13th week in Ordinary Time (Pg 642)

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Confessions at HTS - 11.10am**

**Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm**

### WEDNESDAY 2nd

Wednesday of the 13th week in Ordinary Time (Pg 644)

**Holy Mass - 6.30am**

### THURSDAY 3rd

Feast Day of St Thomas, apostle (Pg 1833)

**Rosary - 11.30am**

**Holy Mass - 12 Noon**

**Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

**Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha**

### FRIDAY 4th

**First Friday & Feast Day of St Elizabeth of Portugal (Pg 1836)**

**& Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati**

**Rosary - 11.30am**

**Holy Mass - 12 Noon**

**Adoration - 12.30pm**

**Benediction - 1.20pm**

**Baptism of Ruth Rennie - 4.30pm**

### SATURDAY 5th

**First Saturday & Feast Day of St Anthony Zaccaria, priest (Pg 1839)**

**Confession - 8.00am**

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Rosary - 5.00pm**

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 5.30pm**

### SUNDAY 6th

**14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Sacrament of Confession**

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

Saturday: 4.45pm to 5.15pm (and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES: *McLean Village* Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.00pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.00pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.00pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

## PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

**"There must be general rejoicing over this holy company whom God has appointed for our example in patience and for our confirmation in faith. But we must glory even more in the excellence of their fathers, Peter and Paul, whom the grace of God has raised to such a height among all the members of the Church that He has set them like twin lights of eyes in that Body whose head is Christ."**

**- Pope St Leo the Great**

## ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR JULY

TBA

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Liturgy Committee - Sat 21 June 2025, 9.00am

Finance Committee - Wed 9 July 2025, 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 13 July 2025, after Mass

Pastoral Council - Wed 13 August 2025, 5.00pm

## Peter's Pence Collection

This weekend we will hold the Peter's Pence Collection. Envelopes are provided. Please donate generously.

## Auction of Bundarra properties - 5 & 7 Oliver Street

A reminder that the auction is scheduled for next Saturday, 5 July, onsite at 11.00am. All are welcome to attend.

## Planned Giving Envelopes

The new PGP envelopes are now available for collection. They are located in the meeting room and may be collected before and after each Mass. Please ensure you collect your box.

## Reflection

This weekend's reflection may be read on the parish website or on the parish Facebook page.

## THANK YOU

By the generous efforts of a band of men led by David McMahon and Anthony Dale, Sacred Heart Church has inherited a statue of St Joseph, an angel holy water font, a table for the meeting room, and the two bells from St Mary of the Angels Church at Bundarra. Thank you, good men, for your help. The statue of St Joseph did pose some difficulties due to its size but it is a wonderful addition to our church in Inverell. The bells have been placed in storage for a future time, hopefully not too distant, when they can be installed in a fitting way and in a fitting place.

## Parish BBQ - Date claimer

The Pastoral Council is calling for expressions of interest and assistance to organise a Parish BBQ for Sunday, September 14th following the 9am Mass. It is being considered to use Victoria Park as the venue. This would be a great occasion to welcome any new parishioners who have come in the last twelve months.

If you are new to the parish please let Fr Paul know by email.

If you are interested in helping organise and run the event, please let Matthew Rennie know.

## News and other topics - from Fr Paul

Having Bishop Murphy with us last weekend was both a

blessing and enjoyable. Quite a number of people were able to meet him and chat with him. Thank you for welcoming him. He told me that he enjoyed his time with us.

Bishop Murphy has appointed me as a member of the Council of Priests for the Diocese for a period of five years. I thank him and am honoured to serve.

The Council of Priests is required by Canon Law and acts as the Bishop's senate, assisting him in the governance of the diocese.

I am already a member of the Board of Armidale Catholic Schools and will continue in this role as well. I have served a three year term on the Board and was re-appointed for a further three year term last year.

Attending meetings in Armidale for both of these bodies will mean that occasionally there is no Mass available on a weekday. Thank you for your understanding.

On another topic, both the Pastoral Council and the Liturgy Committee have been discussing with me the merits and possibilities of have more images of saints in our church, particularly to be placed, but not limited to, the blank wall space between the TV screen and the door to the altar servers' room, and the blank space between the image of St Mary MacKillop and the corner of the building. Another position is to replace the banner that hangs near the statue of Our Lady.

You may have noticed the image of the Sacred Heart above the priest's chair. This has also come to us from Bundarra and was placed there to "test run" having an image there permanently rather than a banner. Of course, were one to go there, it would need to be larger.

This conversation has come about because a generous donation of \$2,500 has come to the parish to be used for the church building. There was no specific purpose attached to the donation but was left at my discretion. I thought it more suitable to use this kind donation for beautifying the building rather than for repairs and maintenance. We will use that money, and any excess in cost will be carefully considered.

You are invited to name a saint or saints whose image(s) you would like to see in our church. Please email your nomination to me stating the name of the saint and a brief statement as to why you favour this saint. Please do this before the end of July.

And speaking of saints, a happy Feast Day of the founders of Christian Rome, St Peter and St Paul.

## If you are using a Sunday Missal:

- \* Proper of Mass, Vigil Mass Page 1038
- Proper of Mass, Mass during the day Page 1042
- \* Preface of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, Page 54
- \* Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Page 61
- \* Daily Missal uses Year One (weekday Mass)