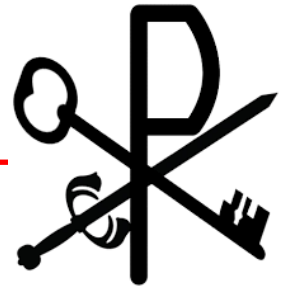




St Peter and Paul

28th June 2026



You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 16

Both St Peter and St Paul are men who had fallen; yet, both are men who rose again to new heights. Peter was Jesus' choice to head the Christian community and be its source of unity, his rock; Paul was Jesus' choice to take his message to the Gentiles.

Both apostles were martyred in Rome under the emperor Nero. In their final witness, there is nothing doubtful about their love; in the end they are equal in love. Both of them had a love without reserve.

That is why we honour both of them without reserve. In honouring Peter and Paul, we also celebrate the ancient beginnings of the Church in Rome, which was to become the mother of all the Christian churches. The Church in Rome had these two great apostles and martyrs at its foundation, a fact the community regarded as a unique privilege. They had a double dimension: apostolic leadership and evangelical energy, both marks of the Church today. That is why, in the Mass, the first two apostles who are mentioned are not Peter and Andrew (as they would be if it were chronological), but Peter and Paul. This Sunday, we celebrate them - together. In one breath.

O holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, intercede for us. Protect, O Lord, your people who trust in the patronage of your Apostles, Peter and Paul, and by their constant protection protect your people. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In addition, this week let us pray for

- ♦ Pope Leo, as he continues to lead us as Peter's successor;
- ♦ all those who, following in Paul's footsteps, endeavour to share Jesus with us and the wider world;
- ♦ all those in our twin Diocese in Bamenda, Cameroon.
- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, recovering, in mourning or in need of our prayers.

"The saints did not all begin well, but they ended well."
John Vianney