

29th June 2025

Sts PETER and PAUL, apostles

“Called, Transformed, Sent”

As we celebrate the Feast of **Saints Peter and Paul** on **June 29**, we are not just remembering two historical figures—we are invited to enter into the mystery of how God's grace shaped two very human personalities into instruments of divine purpose. Though vastly different in temperament, background, and spiritual journey, both saints reveal how God's call meets us where we are and transforms us from within.

Saint Peter: The Emotionally Driven Heart

Peter's personality reflects that of an emotionally expressive, relationally driven person. He acts from the heart, often before thinking things through. He is loyal, sincere, and deeply human—sometimes impulsive, often anxious about failing, and desperate for belonging and approval. His threefold denial of Christ reflects inner fear and insecurity, but also his great love and emotional attachment to Jesus.

Spiritually, Peter models the journey of conversion through brokenness. Jesus does not reject Peter's flaws; He embraces them and invites Peter to deeper trust. After the Resurrection, Jesus asks Peter three times, “Do you love me?”—a healing echo of Peter's three denials. Peter's leadership does not come from perfection, but from forgiveness and grace. His spiritual strength grows through humility.

Peter teaches us that spiritual maturity is not about never falling, but about always returning to Christ. Emotional openness, when surrendered to grace, becomes a source of compassion and authentic leadership.

Saint Paul: The Intellectually Driven Will

Paul shows characteristics of a disciplined, intellectual, and justice-oriented personality. As Saul, he is driven by logic, law, and idealism. He is intense, focused, and unafraid of confrontation. His early zeal to persecute Christians reveals a need for clarity and order, which later becomes passion for truth once he encounters Christ.

Paul's conversion is dramatic—his inner world is shattered by the blinding light of truth. Spiritually, his journey is one of surrendering control and reordering his identity around Christ. He moves from being “right” to being “converted,” from law to grace. His writings show an integration of intellect, emotion, and deep mystical union with Christ.

Paul teaches us that true wisdom begins when we allow God to challenge our deepest assumptions. His life invites us to be fearless in truth and tireless in love. Even a brilliant mind must bow to divine grace.

Two Paths, One Spirit

Together, Saints Peter and Paul show us two distinct paths of spiritual transformation—Peter, shaped through emotion and humility; Paul, through intellect and surrender. Their



differences did not divide them; instead, their unique gifts were united by the Holy Spirit to build the Church.

Peter reminds us that even when we stumble, God still calls us. His journey shows that failure is not the end, but often the beginning of deeper faith. Paul reminds us that no past, no sin, no misdirection is too great for God to redeem. His conversion teaches us that zeal, when rooted in truth and love, becomes a powerful force for good.

In our own lives, we may find ourselves more like Peter—reactive, emotional, needing reassurance—or more like Paul—analytical, principled, needing clarity. God can work with both. He meets us in our personality, in our struggles, and in our growth. He does not erase who we are; He transforms us, using our strengths and even our weaknesses for His purpose.

As we celebrate this feast, let us see Peter and Paul not only as distant saints but as mirrors of our own journey. Let us pray for the grace to follow Christ more deeply, as they did, with hearts open to change and lives rooted in love.

Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us - that we may become both faithful and fearless, humble and bold, in the service of the Gospel.

Fr Sebastian

Faith B4U...

New Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Information Evening

Come along if you are interested in becoming a READER or EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF COMMUNION at Mass OR if you have recently joined the ministry.

Our liturgical ministers have a vital role in creating a prayerful and welcoming environment for our entire community. At these evenings, we will reflect on the role of ministry in liturgy and offer formation for each ministry.

Tuesday 22 July, 7pm in the Church

Register at the parish office by calling 9631 8135 or email lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

We look forward to welcoming you to these ministries.

Did you know?

Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si'*:

'We humans are unique in creation. Each of us has an identity and is an individual centre of initiative. We can speak with God and with each other. We are creative, artistic, and intelligent. Clearly, we share in God's divine life. But this does not mean that other living beings are mere objects, subject to our domination. Nature cannot be viewed merely as a profit source; this has led to exploitation. **Instead, we are to be seen as servants of nature, here to guard and protect it**' (cf LS 81,82).

→ To **read** the encyclical, go to: www.vatican.va

→ To **listen** to this encyclical being read, go to: www.columban.org

Liturgical Ministry Course

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September 2025 in Blacktown. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

To enrol and for more information, please contact Lisa in the parish office **9631 8135** or lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

Registrations close 19 August.

For seniors who struggle with phones and laptops

Scam-proof your smartphone!

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Time: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Toongabbie Community Centre - Free bus transfer

Cost: FREE (Refreshments provided)

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Catholic Outlook Feedback survey!

Do you engage with Catholic Outlook through our magazine, website or social media?

We invite you to tell us what you enjoy, what you'd like more of and how we can continue to engage and inspire all people in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Complete the anonymous survey by **Friday 25 July** by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/V9J5Y5Z

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Joseph Barbara, George Dimech, Christine Spiteri, Vittoria Teuma

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. *Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.*

Alan Burgess, Paul Farrugia, Victor Mahoney, Connie Tonna

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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Safeguarding is a priority at OLQP

Volunteers, group leaders and assistant group leaders are asked to complete the Safeguarding modules either online or in person. Details below.

ONLINE: To sign up & log into your Safeguarding modules, visit: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

IN PERSON TRAINING: To find a training session near you & to register, visit: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you volunteer at the parish and are unfamiliar with Safeguarding, please contact the parish office for more details.

Penrith Parish Winter Wonderland Holiday Program

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, are hosting a Winter Wonderland Holiday Camp in the July school holidays from Monday 7 to Wednesday 9 July for boys and girls aged Kindy to Year 4.

Time: 10.30am - 3.30pm

Where: St Nicholas of Myra Parish Hall, 326 High St Penrith

Cost: 1 day is \$40 per child, 2 days is \$75 per child, 3 days is \$100 per child. *Limited spaces*

BYO lunch, water bottle and sunhat. Parent presentation 9th July at 2pm. **More information contact Eva on 0406 338 629**

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

12:1-11

2nd Reading

2 Timothy

4:6-8, 17-18

Gospel

Matthew

16:13-19

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah

66:10-14

2nd Reading

Galatians

6:14-18

Gospel

Luke

10:1-12

First Eucharist

Over this weekend and next Sunday, 131 children will be receiving the Eucharist for the very first time.

Please join us as we pray for these children and their families to grow in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and be the embodiment of His love to all.

Caritas

Caritas Australia sends their heartfelt gratitude to all parishioners who have so generously supported the recent appeals.

NAIDOC Week in the parish

To mark this special week (6-13 July), our Social Justice Group invites parishioners to view the film *Kanyini* on the importance of truth-telling for our Indigenous People.

When? Sunday 13 July at 11.45 am (after 10.30 am Mass) to approximately 1pm.

Where? St George Preca Centre

What? Film 'Kanyini'

Morning Tea will be served on arrival

FEAST DAYS



This week we celebrate

3rd Thursday **St Thomas**, apostle

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Join us on...

www.facebook.com/OLQPGreystanes | [OLQPGreystanesYouth](https://www.instagram.com/OLQPGreystanesYouth) | www.olqp.org.au

Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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