

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

Mt 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

Mt 16: 13-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

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 considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Feast celebrates the universality of our catholic world. We know from the *Book of Acts* and Paul's letters that Peter and Paul struggled to come to an agreement as to their respective missionary focus. For Peter it was to the Jews; for Paul, to the non-Jewish, Gentile world. While both retained their Jewish identity, they saw that God's commitment of love was to all and not restrictive to one cultural or religious grouping.

Matthew's Gospel affirms the role of Peter as the foundational disciple, the 'rock' (in Greek, 'Petros'), for the fledgling Jesus movement. But this is preceded by the most important and essential characteristic of discipleship and leadership within this movement: a firm witness of Jesus as God's anointed one, the 'Son of the living God.' Peter's affirmation of Jesus' identity comes from God. It is a statement of faith upon which the Jesus movement is built.

Faith lies at the heart of discipleship; witnessing to Jesus' relationship to God precedes any form of leadership. Peter is portrayed in Matthew's Gospel as a flawed, even failed disciple (and leader). We are only too aware today of the failings in ecclesial leadership. However, relationship with Jesus, the one from God, is what sustains and enables the 'rock', that firm foundation, to carry the Church through into a future that is uncertain.

Fr Michael Trainor



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

29 JUNE 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 12: 1-11

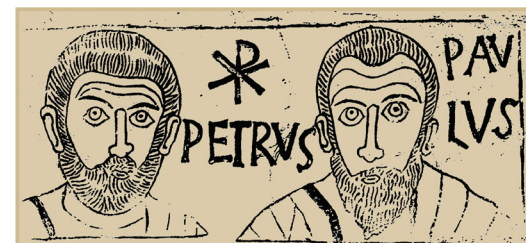
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now I know it is indeed true: the Lord has saved me from the power of Herod.

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. v. 5

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

2 Tim 4: 6-8, 17-18

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

All that remains now is the crown of righteousness.

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



Contacts

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St John the Baptist Community

61 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill; Tel: 9481 7333

St Joseph's Catholic Church Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood;

School Tel: 9419 4918; Principal: Matthew Shawcross

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Tel: 9417 2909

Pastoral Care

If you would like to receive a pastoral visit from the parish priest, a priest, a seminarian, or co-parishioner, please call the parish office on 9481 7333 or email office@olsc.org.au.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Sacramental Reception

Baptism: Second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12 noon (book online at olsc.org.au/baptisms).

Marriage: (book online at olsc.org.au/weddings).

Reconciliation: every Friday 7:15—8:00pm.

Confirmation, Reconciliation and Holy

Communion: Preparation for these Sacraments will be conducted at John's for State School children.

For further information email our parish office at office@olsc.org.au.

Mass Times at OLSC

St John the Baptist

Tuesday to Friday at 9:15am, Saturday at 8:30am, 6:00pm

Sunday at 9:00am (Italian), 11:00am and 5:00pm

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Monday to Saturday at 8:30am Saturday at 6:00pm

Sunday at 9:00am (Vietnamese)

The Chapel of Good Shepherd:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday at 9:30am

Collections & EFTPOS Donations—21-22 June 2025:

St John the Baptist Church: To be advised

St Joseph's Catholic Church: \$897.90

Thank you to all parishioners and visitors

At Our Lady of the Southern Cross, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish.

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people and offer our respects to the elders past, present and future. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.

Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross

The Solemnity of St Paul and St Peter, 29 June 2025, Year C

For Those We Remember

Condolences:

We pray for the families and souls of those who have departed recently.

Anniversaries:

We pray for the souls of Dora Golino and Pauline Carmel Dean.

Mass Intentions:

We pray for the souls of Vittoria Costanzo (1 month anniversary) and Donato Liberata.

Prayers of Healing

Please remember the following in your prayers: Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Mario Misurelli, Rosa Presta, Rachel Bartolo, Aldo Costanzo, Teresa Boetti, Dianne Cilia, Hung (Peter) Trinh and Ruzica Coric.

If you know of fellow parishioners who are not well or have been injured, and they wish to be included in our prayers, please contact the office.

Holy Hour this Friday: Adoration and Prayer for Vocations

Fr Brian Ahern invites you all to the next adoration hour, this coming Friday July 4th from 6pm-7pm at St John the Baptist Church Clifton Hill.

It will be a reflective occasion for prayer for personal discernment, or praying for others who are discerning their way in life.

All are welcome.

Reading Roster—St John the Baptist

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
June 29				
11am	Samoa Community	Samaon Community	Samaon Community	Samaon Community
5pm	Daniel Ryan	Marie Ryan	Manickam Family	Rafelina DeDonato
July 6				
11am	Bill Fitzsimons	Hugh McGinlay	Gabrielle McMullen	Margaret Amarant
5pm	Manickam Family	Manickam Family	Manickam Family	Daniel Ryan

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025

The Archdiocese of Melbourne will host the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) on 30 November—2 December this year, the Jubilee Year of Hope.

The archdiocese invites young Catholics, in year 9 up to 25 years of age to be part of this significant gathering.

This will be an opportunity to encounter Jesus and grow a deeper relationship with him. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, the youth will be inspired in their faith and discover their unique gifts, and their role in the life of the Church.



For more details please see the poster on the noticeboard, or visit <https://acyf.org.au> or contact the parish office.

Liturgical Ministers Welcome

Australian Catholic University is offering training for current and new extraordinary ministers of the Holy Communion.

Our parish always welcomes parishioners to join the liturgical ministry, to gain a deeper understanding of the Mass, and to serve the community by administering Communion.

For more information call 02 9701 4751; email centreforliturgy@acu.edu.au or visit acu.edu.au/liturgy-melbourne.

150th Anniversary

Friday 27 February 2026 marks the 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the church of St John the Baptist. Special events are being planned for that day and Sunday 1 March 2026 and a planning committee is being formed.

If you believe you can contribute to making that day a great success your contributions including as a committee member would be most welcome. To join us, please contact the parish office on 9481 7333 or email John Andrews at acesja@gmail.com.

Unity in Diversity - Fr Peter Varengo

Picking up from Jesus' goodbye injunction to go and make disciples of all nations (Acts 1:11) Luke's *Acts of the Apostles* become the diary of the early Christian community focusing around two specific personalities on a wandering journey from Palestine to Rome each disclosing a unique historical, theological and spiritual character as the stones and its durable supporting beams of faith of that fledgling faith community. Peter was not called by Jesus out of his fishing game to mind sheep because of his personal merits, and Paul was the indomitable zealot hell-bent on upholding the orthodoxy of the Jewish tradition by eradicating totally the very notion of Christ and Christianity from among the first believers. The two characters could not be more unlike each other, and yet their diverse life journeys and their combined energy gave the primary impetus and became the prototype of solidity and unity in diversity for Christian culture. They complement each other perfectly giving solidity and authenticity to the Church as a community of believers energised by God.

With their personal individuality, Peter and Paul together represent the diverse duality of articulation and preciousness of the Church not just as a memory of cohesion in mission and death, but as the first living symbols of universality in diversity within the community of believers for us today and all time. The combined memory of St Peter and St Paul embodies both *primary simpetus* and *unity in diversity, energy and preciousness* of the believing community down the centuries and for all time. By those two elements in confluence, they incarnate a universality that embraces and transcends every culture, philosophical or theological stance, or style of lived commitment.

Christian faith is not an intellectual assent to an academic propositions but a life we face each day regardless of personal failures or communal mistakes lived through the recognition and acceptance of God's living and active presence in in our individual and/or collective story. The Church revealed by Peter and Paul is not an exclusive sect shaped by culture or nationality, but of the life-giving multi-dimensional gift enlivened by the Spirit-Energy of a Father-God to all people throughout the human story.

Faith does not obliterate human fragility, unfaithfulness or sinful denial but as a Church community, we show the world that in our brokenness and in weakness it is humanly possible, both individually and communally to be faithful to God and to live with each other and with the whole world by his love, even at the cost of weakness, infidelity and death. Whoever or wherever we may be, in their weakness and brokenness Peter and Paul today challenge us to become harbingers and foundation stones of God's presence in the world for the salvation of humanity from death, sin and brokenness world-wide, personally and communally together as one.