

**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES.**

*Acts 12: 1-11 2Timothy4:6-8,17-18, Matthew 16: 13-19*

Peter and Paul were quite different people but heading the same direction

<b>PETER</b>	<b>PAUL</b>
A poor man with little or no education	well educated Rabbi, and also a skilled craftsman—a tentmaker
Was a follower of Jesus from nearly <b>the beginning</b> of His ministry	<b>Never knew</b> Jesus or witnessed the <b>historical Jesus</b>
<b>Denied knowing Jesus</b> three times before being rehabilitated in the resurrection appearance	<b>Never denied Jesus</b> though he certainly persecuted him until he met Jesus in a vision
<b>Evangelised the Jews</b> and was contented to stay in Jerusalem many years after the resurrection	Saw the <b>wider implications of the Christ</b> event and began evangelising gentiles: “Apostle”
According to the Gospel Peter becomes the <b>de facto leader</b> of the Twelve ( <b>spokesperson</b> )	Paul will step in after the resurrection to play a <b>critical role</b> as well
<b>Often missed the point</b> and did not understand what he taught	<b>Wrote and preached eloquently</b>
Fisherman	Scholar

This selection shows how God uses individuals of every kind of **background, intellect and talent** to be His messengers.

You know, Peter and Paul didn't have to be friends:

They had a heated discussion in Antioch (where the followers were first called Christians) as each had different ramifications of the council.

In all they might have spent less than three weeks **of their lives together**

- ❖ and yet **they are linked as founders** of the Church in Rome even though **neither of them was the first Christian** in the Eternal City.

This a good reminder that There is more than one way to live out a relationship with Christ.

Both Peter and Paul had different responses to Christ: we too will have our own responses to what Christ calls us to be and to do  
Peter was not Paul and Paul was not Peter!

Each lived **their different response // in their own way //** and not even agreeing with each other at all or perhaps even much of the time.

- Such is the life of Christian disciple.
- ❖ So if there is someone you don't agree with in here it shouldn't make you feel less of your following in this parish.
- ❖ You don't have to agree with me and I don't have to agree with you
- ❖ Peter and Paul could not agree on many things.  
Yet they were united in that they focussed on the one Christ, each in his own way: both heading the same direction

Our own response to his call is what matters,

Sometimes **bumping heads along the way**, but always united by something stronger.

On this feast of the saints Peter and Paul we might **step back** to consider our own response to Christ's call.

- a) **Peter's confession** of Jesus as the Messiah, Son of the Living God became the **cornerstone of the Church.**
- b) **Paul's response on the road to Damascus** turned him from being a persecutor to a disciple and ultimately an apostle to the Gentiles.

**Each died to a past way of life** and opened themselves to new possibilities by their faith in Christ.

- Peter **overcame his denial** of Jesus and Paul **overcame his persecution**, but both did so in the grace of God.
- ❖ May we like Peter and Paul find the grace **to pursue our own path of discipleship**, remaining true to the end no matter where that may lead.