

## Tuesday Reflection 29 June 2021

Today, 29th June, is one of the great feasts of the Church's year - the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, two very different characters united in the love of Christ and the one mission to build up His Church.

Both of them had that close personal relationship with Our Lord which we would ideally love to share. Peter had walked the roads and sailed the Sea of Galilee in the physical company of Jesus in a relationship which was at times quite fraught - and which gives us hope. Paul had never known Jesus in person, but enjoyed a deep mystical relationship with Christ: as he wrote in the Letter to the Galatians, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20), echoing the words of Jesus in John's account of Our Lord's farewell discourse: "I am in my Father, and you are in me and I am in you" (John 14:21).

Coincidentally, 29th June was also the birthday of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, born in 1900; his perhaps most famous work, translated as *The Little Prince* is very much about relationships - human relationships, and their significance in our lives. *The Little Prince* contains perhaps six main lessons:

1. Focusing on facts and figures makes us lose sight of the really important things in life;
2. Look after the planet;
3. Don't judge others by what they say or don't say, but by what they do - or don't do;
4. **The important things in life we cannot see with our eyes, only with our hearts;**
5. It is the time we give to something that makes it precious, and, perhaps above all
6. ***Relationships make life worth living.***

Obviously for us as Christians it is the relationship with Christ which is of supreme importance - but not at the expense of human relationships, because as St. John reminds us in his First Letter:

If a man boasts of loving God, while he hates his own brother, he is a liar. He has seen his brother and has no love for him; what love can he have for the God he has never seen? No, this is the divine command that has been given us: the man who loves God must be one who loves his brother as well. (1 John 4:20-21).

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