

Virtual Family Prayer Bag



Dear Parent / Carer,
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag
for the Feast of St Peter and St Paul

Celebrating St Peter and St Paul

Please take some time over the next few days
to come together, as a family, in prayer.
The Feast of St Pater and St Paul is celebrated on **29th June.**

A Message from Bishop David



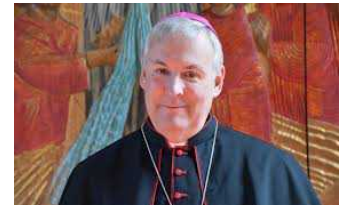
**Dear young friends in Christ,
I don't know how many of you have had the opportunity to visit the Cathedral Church of our diocese, here in Northampton? The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of Rome is called the St John Lateran Basilica.
This is the Cathedral of Pope Francis. And as you walk down the centre of this ancient and beautiful church, you will see either side of you, the statues of the apostles. They all look very serious. They all look as though they have been working out in the gym for many hours! They are larger than life. This makes me smile!**

When we read the New Testament, we cannot help but notice that St Peter was certainly not larger-than-life. He had his weaknesses and struggles. When Jesus was taken to the Cross, where was Peter? He denied three times knowing Jesus, and then he ran away. He was filled with shame and it took him quite a time to get his head around his betrayal of the Lord. What was St Paul doing when Jesus appeared to him? He was on his way to Damascus to have the first Christians imprisoned and killed. These do not sound to me like larger-than-life characters! They certainly had their weaknesses, but they also had something else. They both grew to love Jesus and wanted above everything else to do as well as his followers.

You and I certainly have our weaknesses. On the Feast of these great apostles, you may like to make a list of what you think are your weaknesses. Think about this list and then turn to Jesus with bold confidence and trust. Being a Christian is not about being perfect. It is about being someone who can put their trust in Jesus and know that his love will give us everything we need to do what he wants us to do in our lives. May Jesus our Master give us the strength to pick ourselves up when we have let him down, and the gifts we need to follow him as his disciples,

✠ David

**Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley
Bishop of Northampton**

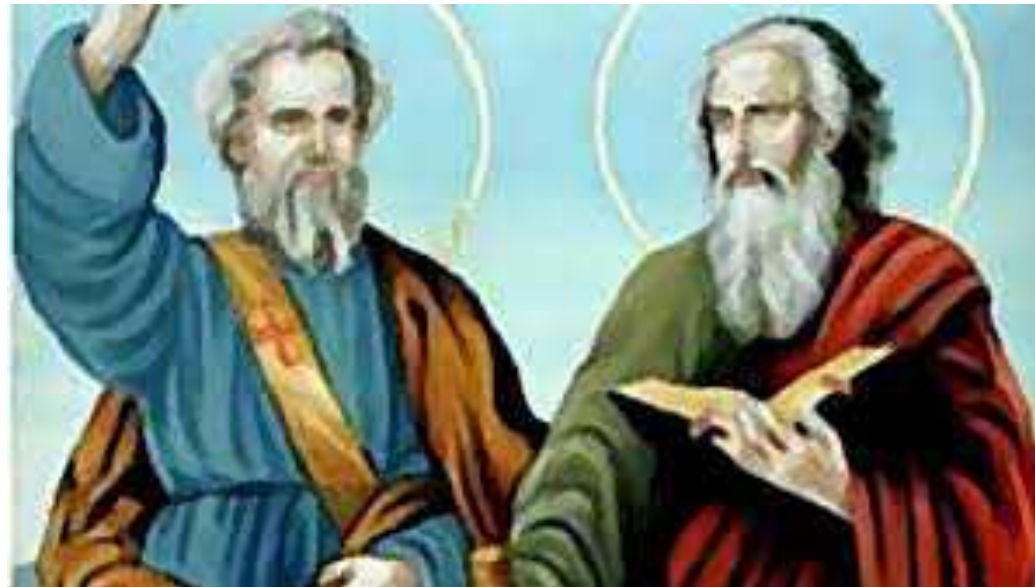


**Find a comfortable place to sit,
light a candle
and begin with the Sign of the Cross**

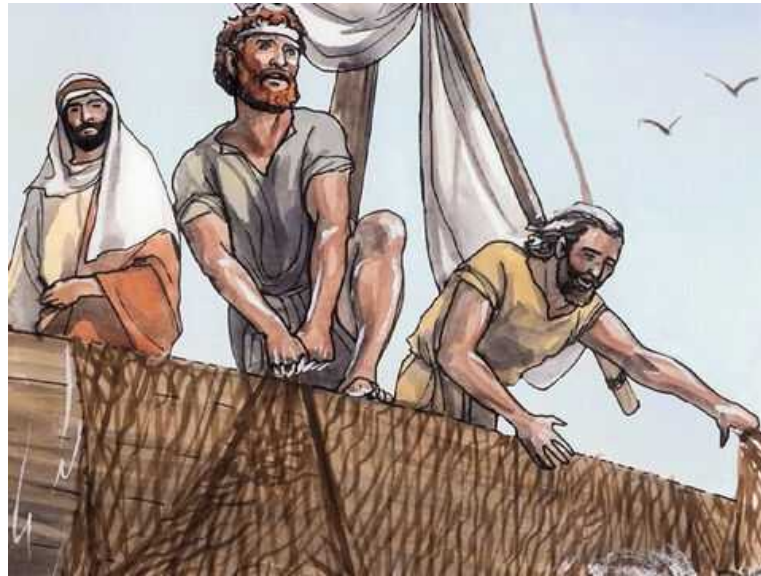


In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**St Peter and St Paul
are the foundation stones of the Church
that we belong to today**



**Peter was a fisherman and one day
while he and his brother Andrew
were mending their fishing nets
Jesus called them to leave everything and follow him.**



**Jesus said to them
'Come follow me and I will make you fishes of men'**

**Peter became one of the 12 apostles
and was a good friend of Jesus.**

**The name Peter comes from a Greek word meaning 'rock'.
Jesus told Peter that he was the rock
on which the church would be built.**

**Peter tried hard to follow Jesus' way
but sometimes he made mistakes.**

**One day Peter denied that he even knew who Jesus was.
Jesus always forgave Peter.**

**After Jesus had returned to his Father in Heaven
Peter became the leader of the first Christians.
He is known as the first Pope.
Pope Francis is the 265th Pope
following in the footsteps of St Peter.**

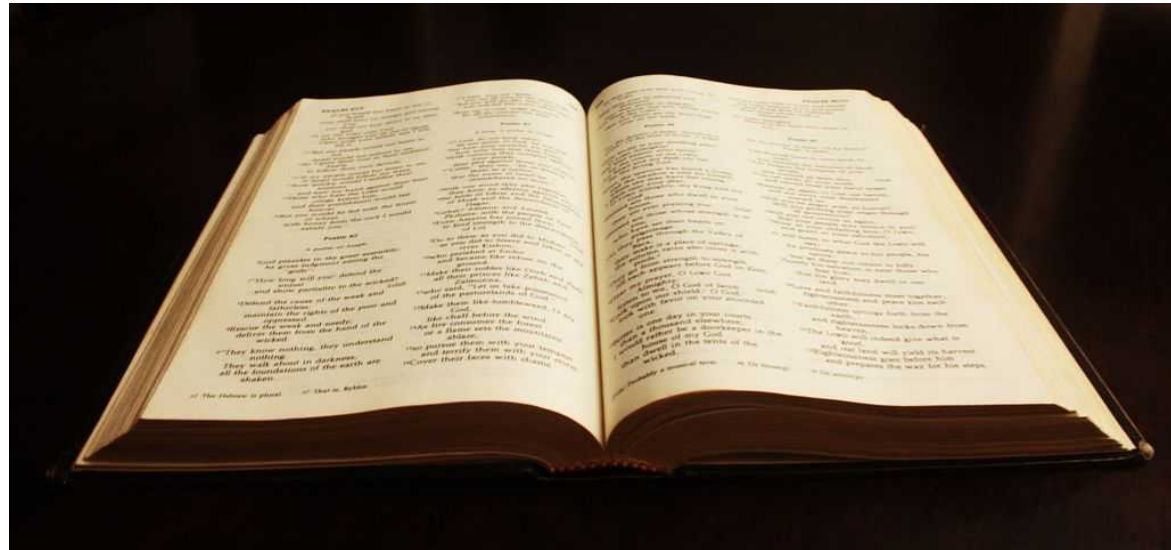


Peter spent his life telling everyone he met the good news about God and about Jesus his son. Once he was put in prison for speaking out about Jesus. When he came out of prison Peter continued his mission of building God's church. He travelled to Rome to preach the good news there.



**At that time Christians were being persecuted in Rome
and Peter was arrested and killed.
Later a great church was built
over the place
where he was buried.
Today the Basilica of St Peter stands on the same spot.**





A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Glory to you O Lord

**Jesus appeared to the disciples for a third time,
after he was raised from the dead. Jesus said to Peter:
'Simon, Son of John, do you love me more than these others do?
He answered: 'Yes Lord, you know I love you'
Jesus said to him 'Feed my lambs'
A second time Jesus said to him: 'Do you love me?'
Peter answered: 'Yes Lord, you know I love you'
Then Jesus said to him a third time: 'Do you love me?'
Peter was upset that Jesus had asked him the third time.
He answered 'Lord you know everything; you know I love you'
Jesus said to him 'Feed my sheep'**

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

**Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times
'Do you love me?'**

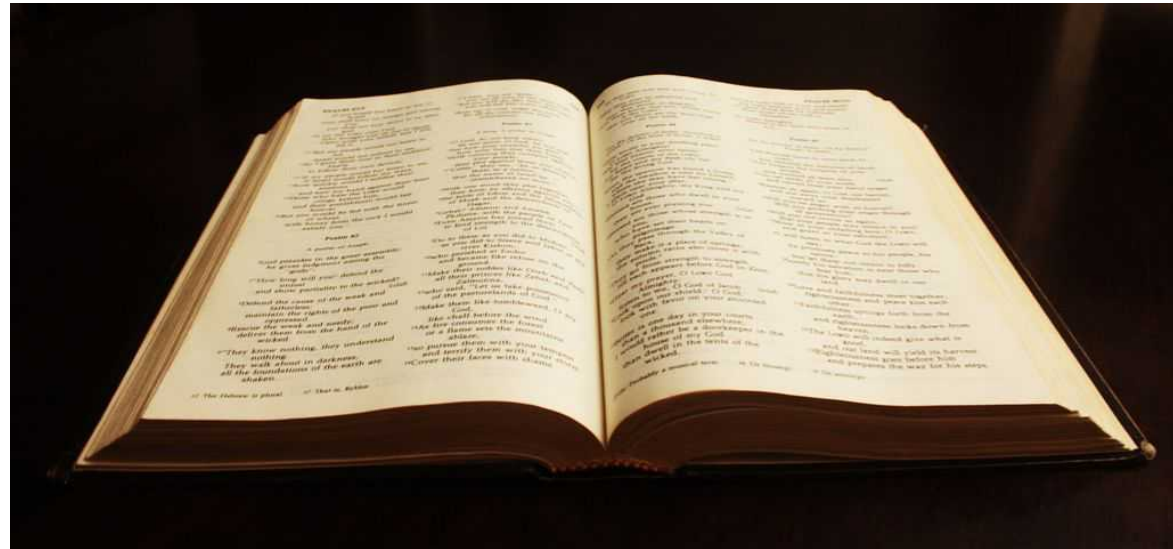


**What did Jesus mean when he asked Peter to
'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'?**

Paul used to be called Saul .
He was from Tarsus which is in Turkey.
Saul was a tent maker and a very clever man.

Saul had not met Jesus and did not believe in him.
Saul travelled to different towns warning the
people who followed Jesus would be punished,
arrested and even killed.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles



This is the story of what happened to Saul on his way to the city of Damascus to look for Christians there.

One day Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus. He wanted the leaders of the city to give him permission to arrest more Christians. Just before he reached the city there was a bright light from heaven all around him. He fell down on the ground and he heard a voice saying, **'Saul, Saul why are you hurting me?'** **'Who are you?'** Saul asked. The voice answered **'I am Jesus and you are hurting me. Get up and go into the city and you will be told what you have to do.'**



**The men travelling with Saul were speechless.
They heard the voice but could see no one.
Saul got up from the ground but he couldn't see anything at all.
His friends had to take him by the hand and lead him into the
city of Damascus where he stayed for three days.**



The Christians, in the city, were afraid because they heard that Saul was on his way. They knew he was a cruel man that didn't like the followers of Jesus.

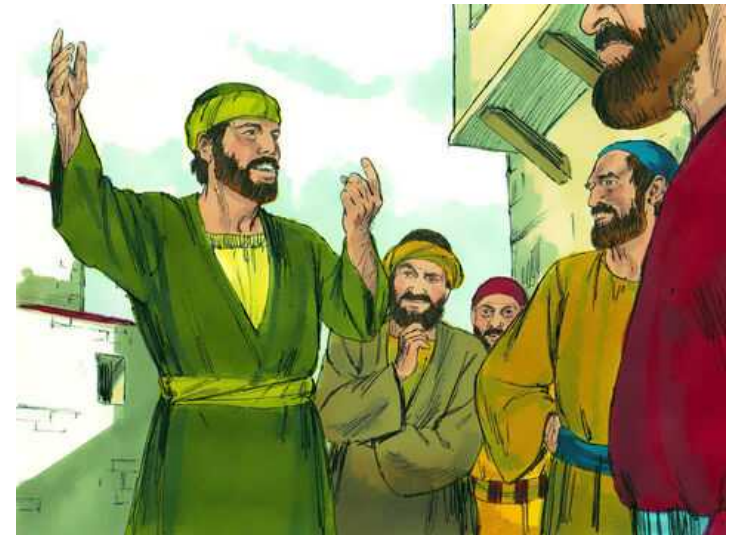
There was a Christian man in Damascus named Ananias. God spoke to him in a vision, telling him to go down the street to find Saul. Ananias said **'I have heard about this man and he has come here to arrest the Christians.'**

God said **'You must go because I have chosen this man to spread the good news'** Ananias found the house where Saul was staying and went in. He prayed with Saul, the blindness left him and he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

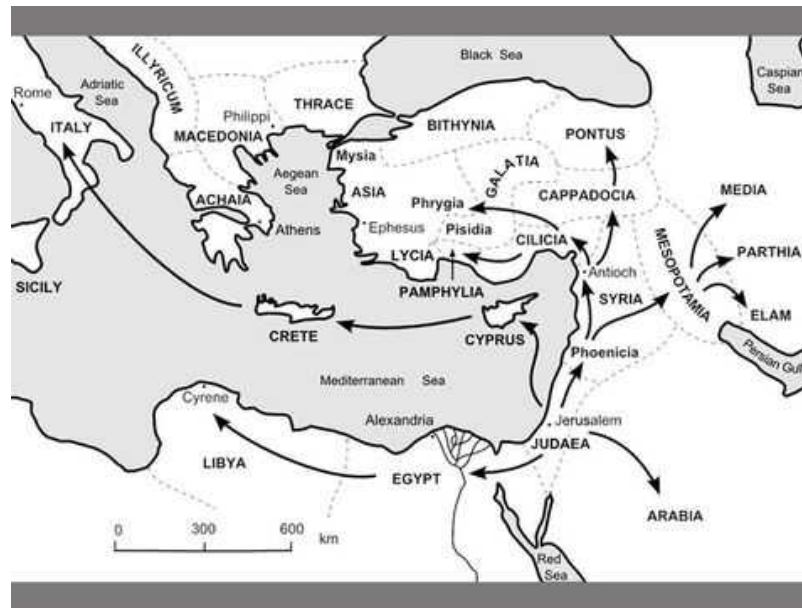


**Saul stayed in Damascus with the Christians.
He became good friends with them and learned a lot about
Jesus from them. Saul began to preach and tell everyone
about Jesus. The people were amazed!
They couldn't believe that this was the same person
that had hated them so much. But it was.
Saul's name was later changed to Paul.**

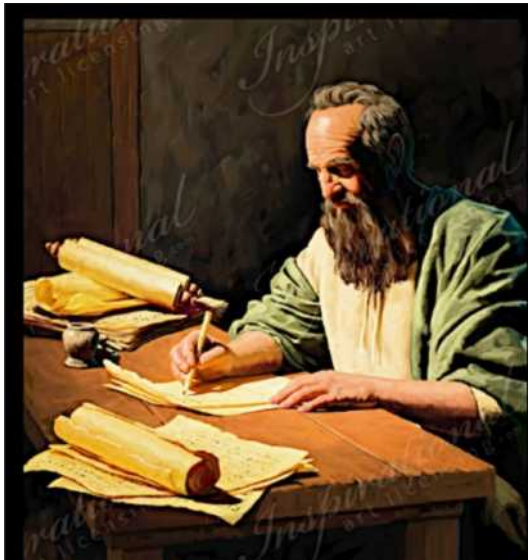
**The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God**



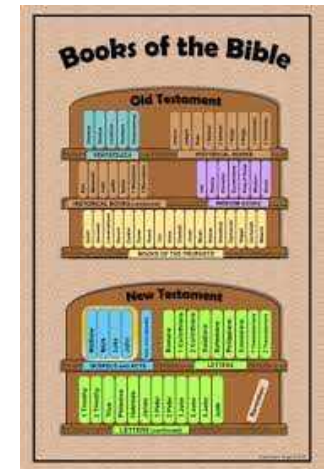
Paul went to Jerusalem to meet Peter and to learn more about Jesus. Paul became a great missionary. He preached the good news to everyone he met. He travelled far and wide and set up churches in the places he visited.



Paul wrote many letters to people in the Churches he had set up.
Sometimes he went back to visit them.

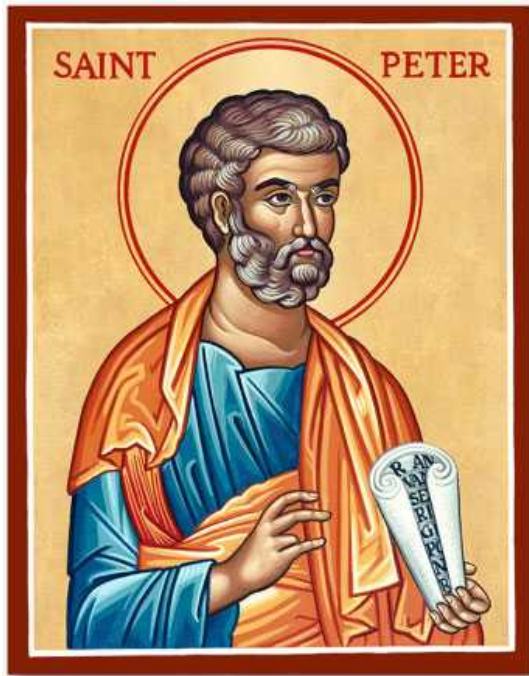


The letters of St Paul are found in the
New Testament of the bible.

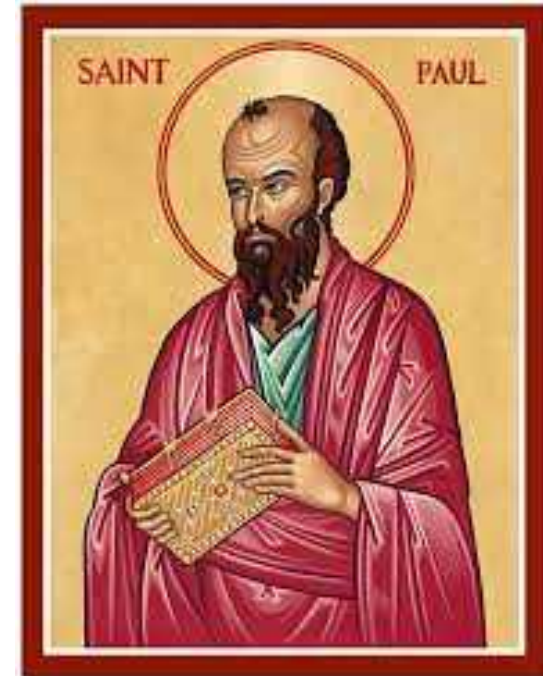


When we go to Mass the second reading is
often from one of Paul's letters.

St Peter is the Patron Saint of
Rome,
fishermen,
net makers
locksmiths.



St Paul is the Patron Saint of
missionaries,
evangelists
writers,
tent makers.



Loving God
help us to be brave like Peter
in telling others the good news of Jesus
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us



Loving God
help us to learn from our mistakes
just as Peter did
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

Loving God
help us to be like Paul
never giving up when things are hard
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us



Loving God
help us to spread the good news as Paul did
by our words and actions
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

Loving God

we pray for Pope Francis, the successor of Peter
that you would guide and protect him

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us



Loving God

we pray for the whole church across the world
keep he strong in faith

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Let us think about anyone we would like to pray for
and ask Saints Peter and Paul to pray for us all

St Peter

Pray for us

St Paul

Pray for us



Loving Father

we thank you for St Peter and St Paul.

**Help us always to follow their example
that we may bring the light of your son Jesus
to all those we meet.**

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord

Amen



**In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**