

Thought for the Week
28th June 2020
Ss. Peter and Paul

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,
we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.
Amen.

St Peter and St Paul – the two hugely important figures in the foundation of our church. Both men became saints but neither man was a saint from the start. They were men with human flaws like the rest of us - Peter denied Jesus through fear for himself, Paul persecuted the early followers of Christ. It was only through great trials and tribulations after Jesus died that both men came to the true understanding of who Jesus was; and Paul had never even met him.

The Holy Spirit guided Peter and the other Apostles to have spiritual courage to persevere through persecution and suffering, when many of us may have given up. How on earth were they going to convert the whole world?

Paul had a momentous experience of Christ on the road to Damascus, which was so convincing he gave up his tyranny and turned to him. He then spent the rest of his life travelling all the known world preaching the gospel of Christianity. Did he worry that people would remember his wicked past and not listen to him?

While we were reading the Acts of the Apostles during early lockdown, I suddenly found I had immeasurable admiration for these two awe-inspiring men. They may have been grumpy, proud, argumentative and sometimes inflexible in their private lives (who knows), but their belief in Jesus Christ and all he taught was unshakeable. They knew they had to carry on and thankfully for us they did.

We need to be like them if we can. Try not to get dissuaded from the path to heaven we are walking. Do not deviate from our belief that we are on a journey and our destiny is to be with God forever. Ask for help regularly from the Holy Spirit - especially in these trying times when we cannot receive Holy Communion. Try not to feel sorry for ourselves but reach out to others, so that by small example we can influence others to turn to prayer and ultimately God. Wow what a responsibility we have as Christians and we need all the help we can get.

A Parishioner



Prayers Please

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Thank you for your prayers for Antonita's nephew Peppin who remains in hospital recovering from the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke and has been taken into hospital in Plymouth.

Please pray for Ilona who has had a fall.

Please pray for Peter Bussell who has Alzheimer's disease and for his daughter who is his main carer.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 7 and has recently started chemotherapy for leukaemia.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for Irenka's sister Ludmila Morris who is a teacher at a school open for keyworkers' children.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please prayer for all teachers — those still going into schools to give lessons to children with parents working on the frontline and those working out the technology to deliver their lessons from home.

Please pray for family and friends who work on the front line in the NHS and in the Care sector.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including; Joan Griffin, Patrick Joseph Treacy, Ray Samuels, Norman Lousley, Audrey Monument, Bob Ryan, Pam Ryan, Bella Sellwood, Doris Campbell, John Russell, Marie van Bree-Anschutz, Patrick Cottrell, Bernard Fornara, Richard Frankton, Bob Gaffney, Lou Levy, Mark San.