

Children's liturgy – Saint Peter and Saint Paul (Year B)

Preparing for worship

Colour: red

Song suggestions: Come Lord Jesus come (873, Laudate)
Be not afraid (964, Laudate)

Welcome: Today is the feast of St Peter and St Paul, two very special disciples of Jesus. In today's gospel we hear how Jesus gave St Peter his name. Let's listen and find out more.

Opening prayer: Living God, help us to follow you and to share our faith with others, through our actions and our words. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 12:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 33:2-9 r 5 or 8

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

"Some say John the Baptist," they answered. "Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet."

"What about you?" he asked them. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

"Good for you, Simon son of John!" answered Jesus. "For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission. *)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about today's reading?

Jesus asks the disciples who the people are saying he is. People think he is John the Baptist, or Elijah or one of the other prophets who have come before.

So Jesus asks the disciples who they think he is.

Simon Peter answers. Can you remember what he says?

Simon says that Jesus is Christ, the Son of God. He shows great faith. He believes in Jesus and knows that he is the Saviour of the world.

What does Jesus say next?

Jesus is very happy with Simon Peter and the faith that he has shown. He gives him a new name – Peter. A name which means rock. And Jesus says that he will build his Church on this rock. What do you think this means?

All buildings are built on rock. They have strong foundations so that they don't fall down.

Peter will become the strong foundation for Jesus' church. Not the church building that we are sitting in today, but the community of the Church that we all belong to. Peter's faith is the starting point for the Church and he is an example for all members of the Church to follow.

So, how can we be like St Peter?

St Peter was just an ordinary man. But he gave up his job as a fisherman to follow Jesus and he was filled with faith.

We are just ordinary people too. But we can try to follow Jesus, to believe in him, and show our faith in the way that we treat others and in all that we do.

How will you show your faith in Jesus in the way that you treat other people this week?

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

Let us turn in prayer to God who loves us so much he sent his only Son Jesus to live among us:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a shining example of true faith in Christ, who teaches us to love one another. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for people who face violence or prison because of what they believe in: that they may have the strength and courage to keep on standing up for what is right. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that we may try to be like St Peter, strong in our faith, and that we may show that faith in all that we do, by treating other people with love, respect and kindness. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Patient and loving God, fill us with faith like Saints Peter and Paul, and guide us to share this faith with others through all that we do. Amen.

Activity suggestions

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the rock how they will show their faith in Jesus in the coming week.

Make a large collage or poster with a big rock on it, with the words “On this rock I will build my Church.” Encourage the children to write, draw or stick on how they will show their faith in Jesus in the coming week, so that they can build up the Church today. You could also explore the key values that make up the Church and add these words to the collage, for example faith, hope, love, peace, justice and so on.

Invite the children to go home and tell their family all that they have heard and thought about today. Remind them to try and show their faith in Jesus throughout the coming week by loving others and treating all people with love, kindness and respect. Encourage them to find out more about St Peter and St Paul and how they lived out their faith in their actions.

*Gospel passage taken from:
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