A Message from your Parish Priest

Following on from last week's bulletin message, I wanted to write a little this week about that towering figure of early Christianity, St Paul.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul are forever associated with one another, by the accident of their deaths in Rome at the same time. It is curious to reflect, however, that they are just as frequently contrasted with one another.

Peter and Paul came from very different backgrounds. Whereas Peter was a simple fisherman from Capharnaum on the Sea of Galilee, St Paul was a Pharisee of Tarsus by the shores of the Mediterranean. In all probability Peter would have been unable to read and write, as those were not the skills required for his trade. St Paul, on the other hand was well educated in the Rabbinic School of the celebrated Gemaliel. The manner of death of these two men also indicates an important distinction between Peter and Paul. Whereas Peter was crucified in the manner common for the unfree classes of the Roman Empire, Paul was a citizen of Rome. He was able, in his troubles, to appeal to the personal judgement of the August Emperor in Rome. Sentenced to death, he could claim the comparative mercy of a quick beheading.

Paul's chief fame for us, though, is the record of his extraordinary missionary journeys. The list of his Epistles which make up such an important part of the New Testament, reads like a gazetteer of the First Century Hellenic world. In every place his journeys took him to, St Paul preached the faith and formed the beginnings of a Christian community. As he restlessly moved on from place to place, he continually reached back by means of his letters to keep alive the faith he had planted. The letters of St Paul are the oldest Christian documents we have, and the earliest record of the life of the Church. He lived in an age before any gospel had been written, which makes his zeal and the scale of his achievement all the more remarkable.

This is particularly so when you recall that St Paul started out in life as Saul, famous above all else for his hatred of Christians. It was at his feet that those stoning St Stephen, the first martyr, laid their clothes. It was to root out Christians for persecution that Saul undertook the journey to Damascus which would forever change his life. As he travelled along, he fell from his horse and received a vision of Our Lord with the words "Saul, why persecutest thou me?" From this moment a man who had never known Our Lord in life, became His greatest advocate.

Does this explain a curious feature of St Paul's writings? I always think that when we speak about the Christian religion to those who are ignorant of it, we tend to begin by describing the life and witness of Jesus Christ. We recount His miracles. We make use of His parables to convey the essence of His teaching. St Paul does remarkably little of that. If the gospels had never been written, and all we possessed were the Epistles of St Paul we would be very hard put to it to recount much of the personality of Jesus Christ. What St Paul did give us, however, was his experience of belief in Christ, the Son of God. This belief was so extraordinarily powerful, despite the fact that it could not be based on personal knowledge of the Jesus who walked the streets of Palestine. Like us, the gift of faith had come to St Paul from a Lord crucified and risen again.

It ought not to come as a surprise to us that the human voice of St Paul is very different from the human voice of Jesus, the Son of God. The music of his speech is different. The homely parables, drawn from ordinary life, by which Jesus attracted His followers are missing from St Paul's writings. His was a different style. St Paul, in fact, was working out in the most remarkable way, not just the content of Our Lord's teaching, but the great underlying question of the gospel story: who, and what exactly, Jesus Christ had been. Everyone had struggled with this question, from Pontius Pilate to the Apostles themselves. We can lay a great deal of our own understanding of Our Lord to the credit of St Paul the Apostle.

With Every Blessing, Monsignor Smith

THE PARISH OF St MARY'S, SELBY and CARLTON

Parish Priest: Very Rev. Monsignor D. Canon Smith MA
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MASS SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS

Saturday:
10.00am-10.30am (in Selby)
5.15pm-5.45pm (in Selby)

And on request in Carlton.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Saturday:
10.00am-10.30am
5.15pm-5.45pm
(in Selby during confessions)

Marriages and Baptisms

By appointment. Please see the priest after Mass to make arrangements

SATURDAY NOVEMBER	28th	6:00pm	Selby	Sr. Catherine Labouré CP	**Vigil Mass**
SUNDAY NOVEMBER	29th	9.30am 11:15am	Selby Carlton	Mary Watson's Intentions Pro Populo	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
MONDAY	30th	10.00am	Selby	Dead List	St Andrew, Apostle
TUESDAY	1st	9.30am	Carlton	Anne Pitts (Sick)	Feria
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER	2nd	10.00am	Selby	Adam (birthday Intention)	Feria
THURSDAY	3rd			No Mass To-day	St Francis Xavier
FRIDAY	4th	10.00am 6.30pm	Selby Selby	Ann Rowe Dead List	Requiem Mass Feria
SATURDAY	5th	9.30am 6:00pm	Selby Selby	Yorkshire Brethren Maurice Ralph Bradshaw	Feria **Vigil Mass**
SUNDAY DECEMBER	6th	9.30am 11:15am	Selby Carlton	Dead List Pro Populo	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Baffam Lane, Selby YO8 9AX
Tel: 01757 706616 Email: admin@sm.bkcat.uk Headmistress: Mrs L. Bird

YOUR OFFERINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday 15th November: £990.89 (Including Standing Orders) ***Many Thanks for your Generosity.***
Roof Donations in Memory of the Late Thomas Alford: 240.85
The Chritmas Tea last Sunday was a most enjoyable occasion and raised £465 for the roof fund. Many thanks to all involved in the organisation.
There will be a Retiring Collection as you leave church for Youth Sunday and Catholic Care.

PLEASE PRAY

For the repose of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially: Geraldine Mustill, Judith Bartlett, Georgina Renwick, Philip Earl, Geoff Pinto, Wladek Malinowski, Brian Walker, Stanley James Kiddy, Stephen Wands, Rita Rowbottom, Mary Swatman, Fr Michael Powell.
May they Rest in Peace.
Please remember also in your prayers Ann Rowe, Elizabeth McCormick and Patrick Devey who have sadly died. May they Rest in Peace. Amen. The Requiem Mass for Mrs Rowe will take place on Friday, 4th December at 10.00am. Mrs McCormick's Requiem will take place on 9th December at 10.30am

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets now on sale at £1each. Full list of wonderful prizes on the notice boards. The raffle will be drawn after the 11.15 Mass on Sunday 13th December, when Christmas refreshments will also be available. Further details: Margaret Kilner (01405 862986)
All proceeds to the parish roof fund.
Christmas Cards and gifts are also on sale at the back of church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

To help with the cost of church flowers at Christmas there is a box at the back of church for donations. Thank you for your support.

CARLTON NEWS

Once again this year you can if you wish donate to CAFOD's world gifts instead of sending Christmas cards to your fellow parishioners. There will be a notice in the porch for your name, and envelopes at the back of church for your donations.

SCRIPTURE COURSE

The short scripture course on St Mark's Gospel continues this week: Tuesday 1st December at 6.30pm, repeated the following morning, 2nd December at 10.30am.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please remember very specially in your prayers those who are sick:
Maureen McDonnell, Gerry McCrossan, Shirley Harrison and Jean Wilson, Zita Birchwood, Breda Gallagher, Irene Bradshaw, Pat Lynch, André Joseph Gudgeon, Lesley Stripe, Delia Fitzharris and Eileen Cooke.

MASSES RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK

The Dead List of the Parish (Masses to be celebrated throughout the year)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The First Confessions for our year four children: **– Preparation continues this week-end (Saturday 4.45pm and Sunday 10.30am)**
First Confessions for year three children will take place in the spring, and First Holy Communions on the week-end of 19th/20th June.
The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in St Mary's on Friday 5th March 2027. Anyone in year six or older if not yet confirmed should receive the sacrament on that day. Preparation will continue on Friday at 5.30pm.

Mass Offerings, Notices and News Items for the Parish Bulletin should be given to Monsignor Smith by Wednesday evening.

Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404