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## **ST PETER AND ST PAUL - SOLEMNITY – YEAR A**

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

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Vestment Colour: Red

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh has a website that contains further resources, information and plans for Children's Liturgy for use by Children's Liturgy Leaders. A full template is available on the website.

**Health & Safety:** *Once you are all assembled, take a head count in case of the need to evacuate (if possible, roster of names). Candles are permitted if they are included in your risk assessment.*

### **Introduction:**

**Leader:** Today, is the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Both men shared the Gospel and love of God with others in the very beginning of the church. They are leaders for us in our faith.

**Make the Sign of the Cross together.**

**Light the candles** on the table next to the Lectionary.

### **The Collect:**

**Leader:** O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul gave us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of the right religion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who live and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**

**The Gospel Acclamation:** All stand to welcome the Gospel. (*You can encourage the children to sing the Alleluia*).

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,  
And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**Alleluia.**

Alternatively, you can use (*Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It'*)

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

As we listen to the story, let us praise him for his glory.

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

**Gospel:** Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year A). Alternatively use an approved translation of the Bible (the ESV-CE version or Good News Bible for Children). *Do not paraphrase the Gospel; however, you may need to explain unusual or difficult words and names to the children.*

### **Matthew 16:13-19**

**Leader:** "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

**All:** "Glory to You, O Lord."

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

**Leader:** "The Gospel of the Lord".

**All reply:** "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ". Ask everyone to be seated.

**Gospel Reflection:** *the following are some suggestions to help with a discussion around the Gospel.*

**What did you hear in the Gospel today?** We hear that Jesus asked an important question.

**What did he ask?** He asked his Disciples “Who do people think I am?” They had mixed responses like, the prophet Elijah or John the Baptist. He then asked them, “Who do you say I am?”

**How did his friends respond?** Simon answered, “You are the Son of the living God!” Jesus was very happy about this and said that Simon was blessed as God himself had revealed this to him. Jesus then said, “From now on you will be called Peter” and “You are the rock on which I will build my Church”

**What did Jesus mean by this?** Discuss with the children that he was leaving Peter (which means “rock”) as the leader of the Church to pass on the faith when He was no longer there. Peter was a Fisherman and was asked to leave what he had always known to spread the word God, telling people of God’s great love for us. Peter faithfully did this for the rest of his life, and he died for his faith and was made a Saint. Saint Peter was the first Pope.

The other Saint we remember today is Saint Paul. Originally Paul (who was at that time called Saul) did not believe that Jesus was God and he sent people to prison, if they said they were Christian. One day, when he was travelling to a place called Damascus, God appeared as a blinding light and asked him why he was hurting His followers.

From then on Paul asked for forgiveness and became a missionary. He was somebody who travelled to tell others about Jesus. He and Peter both helped form our Church. Paul also wrote many letters so that others, including us would know about Jesus. Paul also died for his faith.

### **Prayers of the Faithful:**

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

We now ask Our Lord to hear our prayer

### **Dear Jesus**

Thank You for Saints Peter and Paul. We are inspired by their faith and actions showing their love for you. Help us to have courage like they did to show your love to others.

**Leader:** Lord, in your mercy.

**All:** Hear our pray

**Closing Prayer:**

Loving Father, help us to be beacons of light to all those we meet as we share the good news of your unending love for us by both our words and actions. May we follow the examples of Saints Peter and Paul and remain faithful to you always.

**All:** Amen.