

## Parish Newsletter

St Fillan's, King St, Newport-on-Tay

Our Lady Star of the Sea, [Queen St, Tayport](#)



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St Peter and St Paul – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Year: C(I). Psalm week: 1. Liturgical Colour: Red.

The Lord is the king of apostles; come, let us adore him.

First reading: Acts 12:1-11: 'Now I am sure that the Lord has rescued me from the hand of Herod.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R5: From all my terrors the LORD set me free.

Second reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18: 'There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.'

Gospel Matthew 16:13-19: 'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.'

### HOLY MASS TIMES

Our Lady Star of the Sea: Vigil: 5 pm

St Fillan's: Sunday Mass 10.15am

Eucharistic Service: Monday and Friday 10 am

Eucharistic Service\*

\* **Eucharistic Services** are suspended whilst we are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to celebrate weekday Mass in Newport. Days vary depending on the Bishop's Diary, as Diocesan Duties vary. Whatsapp Group set up by Sam Morton: share news of when Bishop Andrew will be celebrating Mass: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/COZWXsnfWEZ6ZKK3IUBZLP>

### Mgr Pat's Corner

#### Transparent before God

The starting point of the Christian life is not our worthiness. The Lord was able to accomplish little with those who thought they were good and decent people. Whenever we consider ourselves smarter or better than others, that is the beginning of the end. The Lord does not work miracles with those who consider themselves righteous, but with those who recognise their need of God's grace.

The Lord is not attracted by our goodness. He loves us just as we are; he is looking for people who are not self-sufficient, but people who are ready to open their hearts to him. People who, like Peter and Paul, are transparent before God. Peter immediately told Jesus: 'I am a sinful man' (Lk 5:8). Paul wrote the he was 'least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle' (1 Cor 15:9). Throughout their lives they preserved this humility to the very end. Both understood that holiness does not consist in exalting but rather in humbling oneself.

Holiness is not a contest, but a question of entrusting our own poverty each day to the Lord who, as Mary proclaims in 'The Magnificat', 'does great things for those who are lowly'.

Mgr Pat

### Special Prayers

Please pray for those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Pray for the sick and those struggling through challenges in their lives, as well as those who nurture and care for others.

Prayer requests or if you need to get in touch with Mgr Pat please email him

On – [canonpatmcnally@gmail.com](mailto:canonpatmcnally@gmail.com)

## **Saints and Solemnities**

### **St Peter**

"I do so love St Peter," says a friend of mine. "Whenever he opens his mouth, he puts his foot in it".

She is right, of course. Whatever else St Peter may be, he is not the model of a wise and noble hero. He walks on the water – but then panics and starts to sink. He makes the first profession of faith – and moments later blunders into error and is called Satan by the Lord. He refuses to be washed, and then, when the purpose is explained to him, demands to be washed all over. And, of course, he betrays his master soon after having been warned that he will and having sworn not to. If Peter is the rock on which the Church is built, what a fissured and friable rock it is! How much better, we think, to have chosen the Sons of Thunder, for their energy; or Judas Iscariot, for his financial acumen; or John, because he was loved the best. The choosing of Peter teaches us a lesson. The Church's foundation-stone and its first leader is not all-wise, all-knowing, good, heroic, and beautiful. He is a very ordinary man who makes about as many mistakes as we would in his place, and kicks himself for them just as thoroughly afterwards. If St Peter had been great, and noble, and good, we could have told ourselves that the Church is for the saints, despaired, sat down, and not bothered. But the Church is not just for saints: it is for confused, impetuous, cowardly people like us – or St Peter. The rock crumbles, the ropes are frayed, the wood is rotten – but, although that improbable building, the Church, is made of such inferior materials, it grows (on the whole) faster than it collapses, and it is grace that holds it together.

In the end, it was grace that gave the coward the courage to bear witness when it counted, grace that gave the fool the wisdom he needed to set the infant Church on her way, grace that taught the impetuous man patience and forbearance.

### **St Paul**

St Paul is not an attractive figure today. We are still knee deep in the overripe fruit of late romanticism: we admire men who feel, not think; who enchant people into following them, not argue them into submission.

There is even, nowadays, a fashion for saying that Paul invented Christianity as we know it, that he set out with the cynical aim of fashioning an enduring institution; and that the real Christianity, the Christianity of Christ, is something quite different from and far nicer than the Christianity we know.

Yes, Paul's mind did shape the early Church. Yes, without him things would have been different. And all the information that we have in the New Testament is entirely consistent with the whole thing being a Pauline conspiracy.

But so what? "Consistent with" is a treacherous phrase. The evidence of my eyes is entirely consistent with there being an invisible lion in my fireplace, because you can't see invisible lions; but I still don't believe there is one. I trust the world, I have faith in it, and invisible lions are not part of that faith. I trust God, I have faith in the Holy Spirit – I say so out loud on Sundays – and I believe that God called Saul because he needed him, and that the renamed Saul did and said what needed to be said and done.

Paul is not some cold and remote intellectual – just read the Epistles, and see if that stands up. Paul is always reminding people of his weakness – look, I know what I ought to do, and I keep on doing the opposite – look, I have this thorn in my flesh and God absolutely refuses to take it away. Paul is not all mind – he does have his troubles too.

But yes, Paul does have a mind, and that raises problems in an age that doesn't, that uses "clever" as a term of abuse. Remember, though, that we are commanded to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. Perhaps we cannot love St Paul very much nowadays; but let us at least pray for the grace to love God with our minds, as he did.

### **Thursday 3 July - St Thomas the Apostle**

The apostle Thomas is famous for doubting the resurrection of Jesus when his fellow apostles told him about it; but if he is the sceptical apostle, he is also the believing apostle, for having seen and touched a risen man, he made the immediate leap of faith and so became the first apostle to call Jesus God. Nothing is known about Thomas's later career. Thomas is said to have gone to India. The journey would have been easy enough – important trade routes lay that way – and if some of the apostles went west, to Rome, the centre of the world, there is no reason why some others should not have chosen to go east, to the edge of the known world.

We will probably never know for certain; but the Christians of Kerala have called themselves for centuries "St Thomas Christians", and they may very well be right

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### **Dates for Your Diary**

**Sunday, 29 June** – Tayport Parish Church @ 3 pm. Celebrating 25 years of Ferryport Fiddlers. Admission is FREE, but donations are welcome for Eagles Wings Trust and Medical Aid for Palestine. Refreshments will be available.

**Sunday, 6 July** – Taize Service in St Athernase starting at 6.30pm. All Welcome.

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Thank you for continuing to support the Food Bank. Remember also to keep an eye out for double knitting wool. Help with the Café is always appreciated.

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Parish WhatsApp group: 07484 170812    <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Newport-on-Tay-and-Tayport-Catholic-Parish-114980280046954/> Duty Chaplain for Ninewells, Victoria and Roxburghe House: 07821 624124