

### Classroom Prayer Focus:

Pentecost Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Colour Red

On the Feast of Pentecost, the priest's vestments and cloths in church will be red. This symbolises the fire of the Holy Spirit which descended upon those present at Pentecost. Symbols of the Holy Spirit (dove, wind, fire) can be displayed. Pentecost is the last day of the Easter season and is a joyful day of celebration as this is the Church's birthday.

Prayer cloths should then be green to indicate the second period of Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Year.

The Church dedicates the month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, one of the most popular Catholic devotions throughout the world. Images, icons and artwork could be displayed on prayer areas.

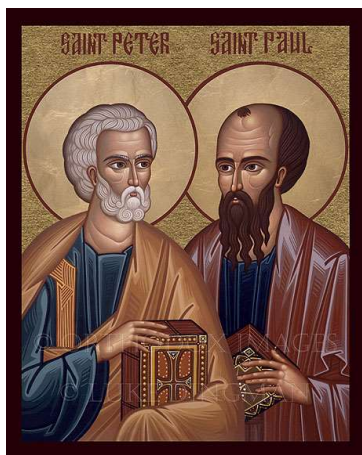
Towards the end of June, prayer areas can display an icon of St Peter and Paul or a symbol representative of them, e.g. a key for St Peter or a scroll for St Paul on their feast day.

### St Peter and St Paul

The feast on St. Peter and St. Paul is celebrated on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. These two saints have a special status in the Church because of the significant roles they played in the formation of the early Church.

**St. Peter** was chosen by Jesus to be the leader of the Church. A fisherman, named Simon was called by Jesus to be one of his Apostles. There is an account in the Gospels, where Jesus changes Simons name to Peter (which means rock) and says 'On this rock, I will build my Church' meaning, he was to lead the faithful once Jesus had returned to heaven. Peter therefore, was the first Pope and the authority given to him by Jesus has been passed on to his successors throughout the ages. We refer to this in the creed when we say 'I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.' Pope Leo XIV is the current successor to St. Peter. One of the symbols associated with St. Peter are the keys, which symbolise the keys of heaven and also appear on the flag of the Vatican City.

**St. Paul** was originally known as Saul and early in his life was a persecutor of Christians. However, following a dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, he became a Christian and took the name Paul. In the New Testament, we find many letters written by St. Paul to different early Christian communities around the world. Symbols associated with St. Paul are a sword and a book.



### The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

The liturgical colour for this day is white or gold. This feast, also known as 'Corpus Christi' (Latin for 'The Body of Christ'), arose in the thirteenth century as a celebration of 'Transubstantiation' or the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It was extended to the whole Church by Pope Urban IV in 1264.

#### Corpus Christi Processions

Traditionally on Corpus Christi, processions are held. The Blessed Sacrament is taken from the Church and is processed in the grounds or local community outside. The congregation follow behind the Blessed Sacrament whilst praying and singing Eucharistic prayers and hymns.

This procession, focusing on the Blessed Sacrament is an outward sign to show that the Eucharist is source and summit of our faith. The Blessed Sacrament is placed within the Monstrance which is a vessel made of precious metal. It allows the faithful to gaze upon our Blessed Lord in the form of Eucharist whilst protecting the host. Whilst the Sacrament is being processed, members of the parish hold a canopy over the Blessed Sacrament.

The procession will lead to an altar and is usual for Adoration and Benediction to take place.

### Blessing of children moving on from the school

Lord, bless each child ready to begin the next stage of their life journey.

We give thanks for the years they have spent in the school and for the many gifts they shared with us.

As they go forth from here may they continue to live lives that speak of God's love for them and for all people. Amen.

### Pope's Prayer Intentions

#### June: That the world might grow in compassion

Let us pray that each one of us may find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus and, from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

#### July: For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we may again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

### Dates for the Diary\*

#### June 2025

Sun 1	Seventh Sunday of Easter – World Communications Day
Tue 3	Memorial of Ss Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
Thur 5	Memorial of St Boniface, Bishop
Sun 8	Solemnity of Pentecost, Day of Prayer for the Church
Mon 9	Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church
Wed 11	Memorial of St. Barnabus, Apostle
Thur 12	Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
Fri 13	Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Sun 15	Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – Day for Life
Mon 16	Optional Memorial of St. Richard of Chichester, Bishop
Wed 18	Feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral Church of St. Chad
Fri 20	Optional Memorial of St. Alban, Martyr
Sat 21	Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious
Sun 22	Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Tue 24	Solemnity of The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Fri 27	Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat 28	Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sun 29	Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul, Apostles

#### July 2025

Thu 3	Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle
Sat 5	Memorial in Staffordshire of St. Modwen, Virgin
Fri 11	Feast of St. Benedict, Patron of Europe – Day of Prayer for Europe
Sun 13	Sea Sunday
Tue 15	Memorial of St. Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Wed 16	Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Thur 17	Memorial in Worcestershire of St. Kenelm, Prince of Mercia

*\*For a complete list of dates, readings and colours please refer to the Archdiocese of Birmingham Ordo 2024-2025.*

*Further prayer resources can be found on <https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/>*

### CAFOD & Mission Together

**CAFOD Jubilee Pledge:** Please find information related to the CAFOD Jubilee Pledge Day here: <https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee-schools/jubilee-pledge>.

**LiveSimply:** Congratulations to the 90 schools that have now achieved the LiveSimply award, showing commitment to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with communities around the world. Please do remember to use our social media hashtag #LiveSimplyBham

**Pentecost:** Find a number of resources including Pentecost Celebration of the Word here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/celebration-of-the-word-primary/pentecost-celebration-of-the-word>

**Mission Together:** Pentecost assembly, celebration of the Word and images to explore can be found:

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/resources-for-pentecost/>