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St JOHN FISHER  
&  
St THOMAS MORE

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Sunday readings from Year A

Sunday 28 June

Solemnity of S<sup>s</sup> Peter and Paul, Apostles

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Sunday Mass 9.30 am      Missa de Angelis

Readers: Eleanor Dobson and Joy Nelson

Organist: Terry McNamara

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Please continue to remember the sick and the housebound of the parish in your prayers and continue to pray for the peoples of Ukraine and the Middle East and all those suffering due to oppression, poverty, persecution, violence or war. Remember also those who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time particularly Florence Gladys Biggane, Alice Castle, Philomena Cook, Evelyn Donetta Graham, John Hannah, Edna May Walton, Edward Mortimer and Mary Fitzpatrick.

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Today there is a retiring collection for Peter's Pence

Today is the Feast of S<sup>s</sup> Peter and Paul when the Church celebrates the feast in memory of their martyrdom during the persecution under the Emperor Nero. It is believed St Peter was crucified in Rome in 64 AD and St Paul was martyred three years later. As early as the year 258, there is evidence of an existing tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both saints on the same day. Together they are regarded as the founders of the See of Rome through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there.

As this is the Sunday that falls closest to the feast of Ss Peter and Paul there is a collection for Peter's Pence. These are donations made directly to the Holy See of the Catholic Church. The practice began under the Saxons in England and then spread through Europe. Both before and after the Norman Conquest the practice varied by time and place: initially, it was given as a pious contribution, whereas later it was required by various rulers and collected like a tax. Though formally discontinued in England at the time of the Reformation, modern "Peter's Pence" proceeds are used by the Pope for philanthropic works throughout the world and for administrative costs of the Vatican state.

Following on from the Sunday's feast we observe the Memorial of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church on Tuesday when we remember those Christians who were martyred at the same time as St Peter. These persecutions were recorded by both Tacitus and Pope Clement I.

Wednesday is the Optional Memorial of St Oliver Plunkett, martyred as the last victim of the Popish Plot. He was canonised in 1975 and became the first new Irish saint for almost seven hundred years.

There is no evidence that Fr Ted Crilly was quoting Plunkett when he said, "That's the great thing about Catholicism. It's so vague no one really knows what it's about".

Friday is the Feast of the apostle Thomas who is mainly remembered for initially doubting the resurrection of Jesus when he was told of it; he later confessed his faith ("My Lord and my God") on seeing the places where the wounds appeared. According to tradition Thomas was killed in Chennai in India on this day in the year 72.

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Parish Summer Party (reprise)

If you would like to attend the Summer Party here at S<sup>s</sup> John Fisher & Thomas More on the evening of Friday, 31 July it would be helpful if could you add your name to the sign-up sheet in the porch. There is also a further sign-up sheet for anyone who would be willing to contribute food for the party. Thank you.

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Walsingham Pilgrimage

Fr Paul now has a provisional date for this year's Walsingham Pilgrimage which will run from 31 August to 2 September. Please let him know if you are interested.

Weekday readings from Year II

Monday 29 June

Feria in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 30 June

Optional Memorial of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

• Mass 10.00 am - Burford

Wednesday 1 July

Optional Memorial of St Oliver Plunkett, Bishop, Martyr

• Mass 9.30 am - Carterton

Thursday 2 July

Feria in Ordinary Time

• Mass 10.00 am - Burford

Friday 3 July

Feast of St Thomas, Apostle

• Mass 9.00 am - Carterton

Saturday 4 July

Optional Memorial of St Elizabeth of Portugal

• Vigil Mass 5.00 pm - Carterton

Sunday 5 July

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

• Mass 9.30 am - Burford

• Mass 11.00 am - Carterton

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Prayer to Ss Peter and Paul

O Holy Apostles we ask for the intercession of St Peter, the rock upon which the Church is built, and St Paul, the great preacher to the Gentiles.

Through your glorious merits, help us to overcome worldly temptations and remain steadfast in God's grace until death.

Amen.

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Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Valerie Copping and she can be contacted at [sg.stjf-sttm.burford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjf-sttm.burford@rcaob.org.uk) should you have any concerns.

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