

Christians in Rome had become a significant presence by 49 A.D., long before either Peter or Paul arrived there. Many believers in Christ would have come from Rome's thriving Jewish population. The organisation of the church in Rome reflected that Jewish community in having no central organisation and comprising many independent churches meeting in wealthy houses, each with its own leaders. They attracted numerous immigrants, including slaves and freedmen. By the end of the 1st century several non-Roman Christian communities had adopted a more formal structure of a local bishop supported by a college of elders, this development being in part due to the need to have an authoritative body to stem the flow of heretical teaching which had begun to spread. However, that there was no bishop in Rome as late as 107 A.D., appears from a letter by Ignatius of Antioch who was brought to the city to be martyred in that year. This is even though some 10 years earlier a document attributed to St Clement (listed in ancient lists as the 3rd pope after Peter) is sometimes considered to be the first papal encyclical. In fact Clement did not claim to write as bishop and the letter was sent on behalf of the whole Roman Christian community. Therefore, historically, there was as yet no Bishop of Rome in the early second century.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: The Emergence of the Papacy (1)

I have recently been reading "*Saints & Sinners – A History of the Popes*" (1). The opening chapter explains how the papacy arose. Based on that chapter,

these 2 articles attempt to summarise the position from Christ's ascension to the point where the Bishop of Rome was generally perceived as the leader of the Christian church. Jesus had told St Peter that upon his name 'Petrus' (the rock) He would found His church and to Peter were to be given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Within 10 years of the ascension, the new faith had spread, primarily through the efforts of St Paul, from the Holy Land to many countries in the Roman Empire, and to Rome itself. St Paul was unlike any of the 12 apostles. He was a Roman citizen, a Greek-speaking, educated rabbi who had never met Jesus during His time on earth. Though Paul was the dominant figure in the early decades of the Church, he was never its leader.

St Peter had been with Jesus from the outset of His ministry. All the Gospels have him as the main spokesman for the twelve. His name appears first in every list, it is he who recognises Jesus as Messiah at Caesarea Philippi, and he is the first of the very few to witness His transfiguration. To him was given the power that whatever he bound/loosed on earth would be bound/loosed in heaven. Peter is central to the Pentecost events, related in the Acts of the Apostles. And yet the Gospels do not expressly state that the powers and privileges given by Christ to Peter were transmissible to any successor. Nevertheless, as Professor Duffy states: "*..it is hard to account for the continuing interest in Peter in the Gospels and Acts unless Peter's authority continued to be meaningful after his death*". Passages in Matthew's Gospel imply that Peter's authority continued in the Christian community. Similarly, in 1 Peter 5, Peter writes: "*...as an elder myselfI exhort the elders among you ² to tend the flock of God that is in your charge...*". This seems a clear echo of Jesus telling Peter: "*Feed my lambs.... feed my sheep.*"

(1) Professor Eamon Duffy (1997)

-Stephen. S

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading: Joannah 3 1-5,10

Responsorial Psalm: 24 Response: Lord, make me know your ways.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand; believe the Good New. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.



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21- January-2024

Eucharistic Prayer II or III

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Day of Special Prayer for Openness to
the Word of God**

R.C DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY REG. CHARITY No.234025

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm		Louise Dunkerley
Sunday 8.30am		Parishioners
10:00am		Betty Fish
6.00pm	Ecumenical Worship(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)	
Monday 10.00am	<i>(Please note change of time)</i>	
Tuesday	9.30am	
Wednesday	9.30am	<i>St Frnacis de Sales, B,D</i>
Thursday	9.30am	<i>The Conversion of St Paul, Ap (End of Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity)</i>
Friday	9.30am	Ss Timothy & Titus Elizabeth Holmes
Saturday	11.30am	Nita Curran
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00pm	Parishioners
Sunday	8.30am	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Peter Sivori
	10.00am	P.J. Martin

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions - Every Saturday at 11.00am. Morning Prayers 9.15am -Monday to Friday

Bishop Mark's Visitation to the Parish. Masses Saturday 9th March (6pm) and Sunday 10th March (8.30 and 10am): Bishop Mark will preside at all these masses during his visit to our Parish. After each mass he would like to meet parishioners in the parish hall. This is a wonderful occasion to welcome and speak to our bishop. We hope that as many as possible will benefit from the opportunity to show that we at St Pius are an active, devoted parish who appreciate his pastoral care.

Annual collection for the Retired Priests' Fund is taken during this time. Your generous offerings will help meet the future needs of our sick and

retired priests. To donate online please go to www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund Plain envelopes & gift aid forms are available at the back of the church for donations. Sealed envelopes (marked priest's retirement fund) can be returned via the collection basket until the third Sunday of February.

Churches together in Alderley Edge: This year's Churches together Christian Unity service will be held in our church. The Service will start at 6.00pm. We would encourage as many St Pius parishioners to attend as possible since we are the hosts of this service only once every few years and it would be nice to have a good 'home' turnout. CTIA committee member from Methodist Church, Pam Thompson, will be setting up a fairtrade stall in the church hall for the Unity Service.

Caritas Shrewsbury/ (Christmas Appeal & Crib Offerings): £336.00 has been sent to Caritas Shrewsbury from the Parish including **£100.00** raised from the **Catenian** Carol Service. Thank you very much for your generous support. For more information please visit: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

Lourdes Hospitality Next Meeting: A meeting of the Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality will take place at St Columba's Church (meeting room), Plas Newton Lane , Chester CH2 1PL on Saturday 20th January at 2pm . All members of the Hospitality are welcome to attend.

Oblate Retreat Centre, Crew: 2024 brochure for the Oblate Retreat Centre, Wistaston Hall, Crew available at the back of the church.

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s) Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life: Dates: 16-18 February 2024 Location: Liverpool .The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). This weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org

Fr Paul Lomas RIP (Funeral Arrangements) Father Paul's mortal remains will be received into Christ Church, Heald Green on Thursday 1st February with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. The Requiem Mass will be offered on Friday 2nd February at 12 noon followed by committal at Manchester Crematorium.