



## **Children's liturgy – Saint Peter and Saint Paul**

**Welcome:** Today we hear how Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Let's find out why and what it means for us.

### **Opening prayer**

Christ Jesus, help us to be faithful to you, like Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Inspire us to show our faith in everything we do. Amen.

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

Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

"Some say John the Baptist," they answered. "Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet."

"What about you?" he asked them. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

"Good for you, Simon son of John!" answered Jesus. "For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter; you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

Today we hear how Jesus was so impressed with Simon, that he gave him a new name. Can you remember what that new name was?

Jesus said that he would build his church upon Simon Peter. Jesus also gave him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Why did Jesus give Simon Peter a new name and the keys to the kingdom?

Simon Peter recognised and believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He had great faith and was willing to put that faith into words but also into actions.

Because of Peter's great faith, Jesus gave him the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What are keys usually used for?

Keys lock doors, but they also open them. As a disciple, Peter spent his time sharing Jesus' message with other people. He opened their hearts to God's love, just like a key opens a door.

We can open our hearts by taking some time to stop and listen, to pray and to try to hear what Jesus is asking us to do. We can show our faith in our prayers and in our actions. We can try to follow Jesus' commandments to love God and to love our neighbour. We can be kind and generous to others and we can try to make the world a fairer place where all people get what they need.

Can you think of some key words that show us what Jesus asks us to do?

These are just like the keys to God's kingdom – which open us up to God's love.

This week let's try to be more loving, more forgiving and more generous to others. Let us try to share hope with others. And let's try to open our hearts to welcome Jesus in.

What will you do this week to show your faith in Jesus and to welcome him into your heart just like St Peter did?

### **Activity**

Colour in the illustration and write in the keyring some of the "key words" that sum up what Jesus asks us to do, or what you will do to open your hearts to Jesus in the coming week. Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with the people at home.

**Saint Peter and Saint Paul**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

