

## **Ss Peter & Paul | Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 June**

This weekend is Saturday the 29 and Sunday the 30 June, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, beginning the Thirteenth Week of Ordinary Time.

The Choir of Westminster Cathedral sing Tu Es Petrus by Palestrina: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

This weekend's reading is from the Second Letter to Timothy.

Paul has an extraordinary sense of God as the source of his strength. As he fights the good fight, as he faces lions with big mouths, as he endures evil attacks ? as he survives all of these challenges, Paul sums it all up very simply: "But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength." Can you remember times in your own life when you have been caught up in the heat of challenges and "good fights"? When have you needed rescuing from "the lion's mouth"?

What sorts of people or situations have made up the "lions" of your life? When have you felt threatened by circumstances or by demands made on you? As you recollect such moments, try to become aware of how strength works within you, what strength in the face of lions feels like.

Listening again to Paul's description of how God's strength is at work in him, reflect on the present circumstances of your own life. Look around you, but look most closely at where your life with God is in some way being challenged.

Paul fights the good fight so that through him "the message might be fully proclaimed." It is to do this that God gives him strength. What good fight on behalf of God are you fighting at the moment? Take your cue from Paul's example, and ask God to stand by you in the good fight; ask him to give you strength.