

I suppose you could go to any saint in the Church's calendar, and create for him or her a dialogue with Jesus which might stand beside this one between Jesus and Peter. Every saint confesses Christ as Messiah and son of the living God; every saint's profession of faith is welcomed by Christ with overwhelming promises which involve the inheritance of the Kingdom of God.

Every saint, however, has a special personal way to Christ, and Paul enumerates some of them in his writings: *to some his gift was that they should be apostles; to others, teachers; to others again administrators and helpers....and* the list goes endlessly on, growing greater with each new saint as God calls them to light. Furthermore, the life of every saint is moulded by the place and time, the local conditions of the life that was holy. Peter has keys given him; and keys are for making people safe, or for liberating them. As the leader of the Twelve, he is recognised as a foundation-stone of the new Israel that is the Church. His calling is very great and pivotal; he is a great saint.

Paul's gifts are well known to us from his letters and from the glowing words of the *Acts of the Apostles*, of which he is the undoubted hero. In some way these two have become models of the institutional Church centred today on the See of Peter, and of the missionary, evangelising Church, which is so much harder to quantify or to define.

Both of them, however, receive their gifts from the one Spirit, into whom we are all baptised, and whose constant presence confirms us as we take our uncertain steps into the oncoming Kingdom. In recognising the continuance of the ministry as they displayed it in our own day, we rejoice in their heavenly patronage, and ask for the grace given to them, which the Church in our own time needs so much.