

- 1 Today is the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Who were they?
- 2 Simon was introduced to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, who was also a fisherman. Later Jesus changed Simon's name to "**PETER**", from the Greek word, 'Petros', meaning "Rock". Peter and his faith would be a rock on which Jesus would build his church, even though Peter would run away and deny knowing Jesus in his hour of need.
- 3 Peter served as the leader of the first group of Christians. He travelled to the centre of the Roman Empire, and there became the first bishop of the city of Rome. The bishop of Rome is now called the "pope", a word which means "father", recognising his leadership.
- 4 **PAUL** used to be called "Saul" and had been a Jewish official who hunted down Christians. He was one of those responsible for their deaths, but then had a vision that changed his life, and he became a Christian. Being given a new name, "*Paul*", was a sign of being called to live a new kind of life.
- 5 We have heard how both Peter and Paul were unlikely choices to help continue the life and work of Jesus - Peter denied knowing Jesus, and Paul had persecuted Christians. Because they are both unlikely characters, and because neither of them was "perfect", we are reminded that God accepts us as we are, with our limitations.
- 6 Peter and Paul are linked together because, in their different ways, they did so much to inspire and build up the Church.
- 7 We'll use as a short reading and prayer, some words of Saint Paul, found in a letter that he wrote to the Christians in Rome:
- 8 **"For those who love God everything works out for good, because God has chosen us to bear the image of Jesus, his Son. With God on our side, who can be against us? Even if we face hard times or are threatened - God's love is greater still, and nothing can ever separate us from his love. Through all difficulties we can never be failures or losers because of the power of God's love."**
(based on Romans 8²⁸⁻³⁹)

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:
www.prayingeachday.org