

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Feast of Saint Peter the Apostle



The Parish Mass

Sunday 28 June 2026

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any safeguarding concern, or are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person, or adult, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, a member of the clergy, or a churchwarden.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Ben Drouet safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk 01604 791251

Diocese of Peterborough Safeguarding Team

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If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, please call 999.

Live Streaming and Recording Please note that some services are live-streamed or recorded. Filming is limited as far as reasonably possible to those leading or assisting with the service, including clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians, choir members, and servers. Holy Communion is not filmed.

If you would prefer not to appear online, please sit in one of the side aisles or speak to a welcomer or churchwarden, who will be happy to help you find seating outside the filmed area.

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Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities Toilet and baby changing facilities are available at the base of the church tower. A small servery is also available.

For Younger Children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted children's area with age-appropriate Christian resources is available. Please feel free to make use of these facilities during the service.



Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



Our response to God’s generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew’s is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

* * * * *

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew’s Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



¶ The Feast of St Peter, Apostle

Today the Church celebrates Saint Peter, chief among the apostles, who together with Saint Paul has been commemorated on 29 June since the earliest centuries of the Church following their martyrdom in Rome around AD 64.

Peter's story is one of faith, failure and restoration. Called by Christ from his work as a fisherman, he became the first among the disciples to confess Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Though he would later deny his Lord, Peter was restored by the risen Christ and entrusted with the care of the Church. Through God's grace, his weakness was transformed into faithful witness.

In today's Gospel we hear Peter's confession of faith and Christ's promise to build his Church upon this rock. In the first reading we find Peter imprisoned for the Gospel yet delivered through God's providence and the prayers of the Church.

As we honour Saint Peter, we give thanks for the apostolic faith handed down through the generations and pray for grace to follow Christ with the same courage, humility and trust.

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins and to save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments after Mass. The following prayer may be found helpful:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you called Saint Peter to follow you,
strengthened him when his faith faltered,
and restored him when he fell.
Grant that we may confess you with courage,
serve you with faithfulness,
and trust in your mercy at all times;
that, with Peter and all the saints,
we may rejoice in your kingdom for ever;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Setting

Communion Service in F

Harold Darke 1888-1976

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Please stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All

DISPOSER supreme, and judge of the earth,
Who chooseth for thine the weak and the poor,
To frail earthen vessels, and things of no worth,
Entrusting thy riches which ay shall endure.

Throughout the wide world their message is heard,
And swift as the wind it circles the earth;
It echoes the voice of the heavenly Word,
And brings unto mortals the hope of new birth.

Their cry thunders forth, 'Christ Jesus is Lord',
Then Satan doth fear, his citadels fall:
As when those shrill trumpets were raised at thy word,
And one long blast shattered proud Jericho's wall.

O loud be the call, and stirring the sound,
To rouse us, O Lord, from sin's deadly sleep;
May lights which thou kindlest in darkness around,
The dull soul awaken, her vigil to keep.

All honour and praise, dominion and might,
To thee, three in one, eternally be,
Who pouring around us thy glorious light,
Dost call us from darkness thy glory to see.

Words Latin, Jean-Baptiste de Santeuil 1630-1696
tr Isaac Williams 1802-1865
and editors of *The New English Hymnal*, 1986

Music Hanover
Melody and bass by William Croft 1678-1727
in *A Supplement to the New Version*, 1708

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

The Greeting

All This is the day that the Lord has made
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Mass is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Jesus said to his apostles,
'You are my friends if you obey my commands.'
Let us now confess our disobedience to him.

Confession

All **God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought
and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyries

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:
Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you † your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Choir Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art Most High,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray that we will remain true to the faith
which has come to us through the apostles:

Almighty God,
who inspired your apostle Saint Peter
to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:
build up your Church upon this rock,
that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth
and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After

they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

Acts 12.1-11

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Response

Stephen Moore

Org. Glo-rious things are spo-ken of you, Zi - on, ci-ty of our God._____

Choir Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
As the hills stand about Jerusalem,
so the Lord stands round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore. **Response**

The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway
over the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.
Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are true of heart. **Response**

Those who turn aside to crooked ways
the Lord shall take away with the evildoers;
but let there be peace upon Israel. **Response**

Psalm 125

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. Choir
2. Choir and Congregation

Al - le - lu - ia.

Choir I do not call you servants but friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

All **Alleluia.**

§ *We turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’

Matthew 16.13-19

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

§ *Sit*

The Nicene Creed

§ *Stand*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

All may bow ***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.***

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Encouraged by our fellowship with all the saints,
let us make our prayers to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

§ *Kneel*

Intercessor Father, your Son called men and women to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. Look with mercy upon those whom he calls today, marks with the cross and makes his disciples within the Church ...

Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son told his disciples not to be afraid and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. Look with mercy upon the world into which he sent them out, and give it that peace for which it longs ...

Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son formed around him a company
 who were no longer servants but friends,
and he called all those who obeyed him
 his brother and sister and mother.
Look with mercy upon our families and our friends
and upon the communities in which we share ...

Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing ...

(The acutely ill ...)

Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit in thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom.

According to your promise,
look with mercy on those who have walked with Christ in this life
and now have passed through death ...

(The recently departed, year's mind ...)

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest Almighty God,
you have built your Church upon the foundations
 of the apostles and prophets,
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone:
so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine,
that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles,
I leave you peace, my peace I give you.
Look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom,
where you live and reign for ever.

All **Amen.**

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought forward and given to the presiding priest.
The altar is prepared.*

Hymn

All

**'THOU art the Christ, O Lord,
The Son of God most high!
For ever be adored
That name in earth and sky,
In which, though mortal strength may fail.
The saints of God at last prevail.**

**O surely he was blest
With blessedness unpriced,
Who, taught of God, confessed
The Godhead in the Christ;
For of thy Church, Lord, thou didst own
Thy saint a true foundation-stone.**

**Thrice fallen, thrice restored,
The bitter lesson learnt,
That heart for thee, O Lord,
With triple ardour burnt.
The cross he took he laid not down
Until he grasped the martyr's crown.**

**O bright triumphant faith,
O courage void of fears,
O love most strong in death,
O penitential tears!
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
And make us go where thou shalt call.**

Words William Walsham How 1823-1897

Music Gopsal
Melody and bass by
George Frideric Handel 1685-1759

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, accept the prayers and gifts we present
on this feast of Saint Peter.

Continue to guide us in your love
as you nourished the faith of your Church
by the preaching of the apostles,
we ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
that we should give you thanks, praise and glory,
almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For after his resurrection he sent out his apostles and evangelists
to preach the gospel to all nations and lead us in the way of truth.
Himself the chief cornerstone,
he founded his Church upon the apostles
firmly to stand for ever as a sign of your holiness upon earth
and a living witness to all of the way that leads to heaven.

And so with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven we lift our voices
and join in their unending hymn of praise.

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Dynamics markings are placed above the staff: *mf* above the first measure, *cresc.* above the second measure, and *f* above the third measure. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes: "Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a - gain."

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Breaking of the Bread

God of promise,
you prepared a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All **Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb!**

Agnus Dei

Choir O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Giving of Communion

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build
my Church.

*Baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches
are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.*

*Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet
with you as a sign. Thank you.*

Motet

Choir Tu es Petrus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina 1525/6-1594

Hymn

All

FORSAKEN once, and thrice denied,
The risen Lord gave pardon free,
Stood once again at Peter's side,
And asked him, 'Lov'st thou me?'

Saint Peter, when the cock crowed clear,
Went out, and wept his broken faith,
Thence as a rock through strife and fear,
He served his Lord till death.

Lord, oft forsaken, oft denied,
Forgive our shame, wash out our sin;
Look on us from thy Father's side.
And let that sweet look win.

Words Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-1895

Music Saffron Walden
Arthur Henry Brown 1830-1926

§ *All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

**Merciful God,
you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
Draw us with your pilgrim people
to follow the good example of the apostles
and so serve your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn

All

**THE saints who toiled from place to place
Spreading the Gospel of God's grace,
Now in their heavenly homeland dwell
With Christ, whom here they served so well.**

**Alert at thy command to go,
And everywhere thy word to sow,
They went, O Master, far and wide,
Eager but yet unsatisfied.**

**Thine was the task they took in hand,
Thine their good news for every land,
Thine was their power, and thine again
Their passion for the souls of men.**

**That task of thine by them received
To us is given who have believed.
Grant us like them to share thy love
And with them dwell in heaven above.**

Words vv1-3 Walter Howard Frere 1963-1938
v 4 after Frere, Michael Gudgeon b 1940

Music Morning Hymn
François Hippolyte Barthélémon 1741-1808

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the apostles,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.
All **Amen.**

May he give you joy and fellowship and a share in their praises.
All **Amen.**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness
and to come to the full radiance of glory.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

All The Mass is ended, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Tu es Petra

Henri Mulet 1878-1967

§ *Please remain standing until the procession has departed*

§ *Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary*

§ Refreshments are served in church, please do join us

§ If you are a newcomer to the parish or area please introduce yourself to one of the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.

This evening at 5.30 pm
Solemn Congregational Evensong

Our thanks are due to Carol Shepperdson
who has generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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