

**Homily      Sts. Peter and Paul   28<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

When in your life have you been rescued? Who or what rescued you? Let's take a moment to recall a time in each of our lives when we were rescued in some way.

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What were the feelings associated with being rescued: mixed, complex perhaps?

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Rescue is an important experience that links Sts. Peter and Paul, and it occurs in the first reading, psalm and second reading. We need to 'get' from the inside that part of the power of the teaching and preaching of these two giants comes from their experience of being rescued. We need to 'get' that the gospel is about rescue. Only then do we 'get' that we too can be rescued.

There can be mixed feelings on being rescued: relief, gratitude, humility, even humiliation. There may be shame if I am rescued from my own stupidity. There may be anger if I felt I didn't need to be rescued.

There can also be a change of life, a change of world view, and an ongoing commitment and connection to one's rescuers.

This mix of feelings, and change of life and commitment is how many begin to become true disciples of Jesus Christ. It's only when we experience being rescued that we truly understand Jesus to be our saviour. Peter and Paul are exemplars of this for us.

Peter was rescued from various blunders long before he gets to being rescued from prison in today's first reading. And only moments after his profession of faith in today's gospel he will put his foot in it and be reprimanded by Jesus. Paul is rescued by his Damascus Road encounter with the Risen Jesus, and his subsequent conversion. In that security he affirms today: "The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me."

Our prayer for rescue at this time may well be focussed on the immediate needs of the moment. But we must always remember that our prayer for rescue is ultimately cast in the biggest and deepest context of all – our rescue for eternity. Not only are we saved *from* our sins, we are saved *for* glory. And we must be willing to be changed for the sake of that rescue. Knowing we are saved by Jesus Christ – for ever, means we must become committed to him – for ever.