

Feast of St Peter and St Paul

This weekend we celebrate the great feast of Ss Peter and Paul, the formators of the Church of Jesus Christ. They are a fascinating combination. Not always the best of friends but without them we would not have the Church as we know it. Culturally so different, yet the combination worked.

Many of us know their story. Peter the fisherman. Paul also from a Hebrew background but highly influenced by the Pharisees. Given this context it is not difficult to understand their personalities and how they played their part in the formation of the Church.

It is a miracle that these two men could bring about the expansion of the Christian community.

How faithful to the Jewish traditions must they be? How open to the Hellenistic world must they be?

I would have loved to be at the Council of Jerusalem and been an onlooker in the discussions between Peter and Paul. Some traditions are very hard to let go.

At this time in our world we too have a clash of cultures, pushed into sharp relief by the black lives matter movement.

I'm not a scripture scholar but in the end Peter and Paul found a way to work together so that the truths of the Gospel could be shared with the whole world.

In our present day, maybe, we will be able to accept that, through the same truths that Jesus brought into our world, God makes it clear to us that we are all valued and loved. And if we can accept that, racial hatred will be healed.

This one may be harder than lockdown.

But if we can show one another that love and respect to which Jesus calls us, rather than 'social distancing', perhaps we can close the gaps that divide us.