

# Simon Peter

## MORNING PRAYER

Monday

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

### REFLECTION

Around the dome of St Peter's in Rome, carved in letters eight feet high, are the words which Christ spoke to Simon the Fisherman ....*Tu es Petrus...*

Jesus gave him the name Peter, which means Rock.

Peter was called to be the *foundation stone* of the Church, the rock around which the Body of Christ can build itself in every generation.

Pope Francis is the successor to Peter for our times, and his principal task is to become the rock of the Church, around whom we can gather.

Peter was a weak man. He denied Jesus three times. He was too afraid to defend Jesus at his trial before Pontius Pilate. But Jesus makes up for his weakness, promising to strengthen him in his faith, so that the rock can have superhuman strength.

Peter can be relied upon to teach the truth of Christ's Gospel to whoever is prepared to listen.

Beneath the dome of St Peter's, beneath the famous great altar, beneath all the architectural grandeur of largest church in the world...

lie the bones of Simon, the simple Galilean fisherman called by Christ to be Peter, the foundation of his Church on earth.

### PRAYERS

Let us pray for Pope Leo, that he preach the Gospel of Christ with courage and zeal.

Lord, hear us....

St Peter....**pray for us,**

*House Saint*....**pray for us.**

In the name....

# Simon Peter

Tuesday

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

## REFLECTION

At the Solemn Mass when a new Pope takes up his office as successor to St Peter, he is given a strange vestment to wear called the *Pallium*.

The Pallium is a band of cloth, woven from lamb's wool, which the Pope wears around his shoulders when he is in Church.

The Pallium is meant to represent a lamb, and the Pope carries the symbol of lamb around his shoulders because it can't walk any more and needs his support.

In the last conversation between Peter and Jesus before he ascends into heaven, Jesus says to Peter three times, '*Do you love me? Feed my lambs*'.

Peter bears the solemn responsibility of looking after the vulnerable and broken members of the body of Christ, the lost lambs, or those too weak to look after themselves.

Every new successor to Peter is reminded, even in what he wears, that this is at the heart of his sacred calling.

## PRAYERS

Let us pray that we recognise Pope Leo as our Good Shepherd, and pray that he leads the Church by example, with compassion for the lost and the broken.

Lord, hear us....

St. Peter: **Pray for us.**

*House Saint*: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father...

# Simon Peter

Wednesday

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

## REFLECTION

When a Pope dies, or resigns as did Pope Benedict, his ring is taken from him and it is broken in two.

The ring that a Pope wears is made especially for him, and it is unique to him.

It is the symbol of his authority, and it traditionally has the image of a fisherman carved into it. It is known as the Fisherman's Ring.

The new Peter needs to be a fisherman.

The first thing we hear about Peter was that he was an unsuccessful fisherman; in fact the first miracle that Peter witnessed was when he discovered he needed Jesus to catch fish. And then Jesus said to him:

*"Follow me, and I will make you into a fisher of men!"*

In John's Gospel, the two last words we hear Jesus speak before the Ascension were to Peter and he simply said:

*"Follow me!"* Peter leads the Church by following Christ.

Our present Pope, the successor to Peter the fisherman, catches us for Christ by showing us how to follow Christ. This is the source of his authority, and it is carved into the Fisherman's ring which he wears.

## PRAYERS

Let us pray for our Holy Father Pope Leo, that in his role as 'Servant of the servants of God', he shows us how to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Lord, hear us....

St Peter: **Pray for us,**

*House Saint:* **Pray for us.**

In the name...

Simon Peter  
Thursday  
ROSARY REFLECTION

*Rosary Intention for our Holy Father, Pope Leo*

**THE THIRD MYSTERY OF LIGHT:**  
**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**  
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying *‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’*

*1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day....*

*10x Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...*

*1x Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was...In the name...*

Friday  
FRIDAY PRAYER

**PRAYER OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
take all my freedom, my memory,  
my understanding, and my will.  
All that I have and cherish  
you have given me.  
I surrender it all to be guided by your will.  
Your grace and your love  
are wealth enough for me.  
Give me these, Lord Jesus,  
and I ask for nothing more.**