



Vox Populi
Wednesday 25 January 2023

Today, 25 January 2023, we celebrate the feast day of The Conversion of St Paul. It marks one of the most important moments in Christianity.

Although he never walked with Christ, not being one of the originally chosen, St Paul is today recognised as the great evangelist.

Born in Tarus he was known as Saul. He was zealously opposed to Jesus' teachings and persecuted many of His followers.

However on a journey to Damascus to imprison more Christians, Saul has an experience that not only changed his life but resulted in him becoming one of the most important figures in the spread of Christianity.

Blinded by a light he fell from his horse and heard the words of Jesus saying "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul had to be led into Damascus where after three days fasting and praying he converted, and was baptised, taking the name Paul.

Now able to see, and with an extraordinary missionary zeal, Paul travelled extensively preaching the death, resurrection, and lordship of Jesus Christ, and proclaiming that faith in Jesus guarantees a share in His life. His ministry had a profound impact.

He became known as the Apostle to the Gentiles but importantly for us today St Paul helps us understand just what conversion means.

Following his dramatic conversion he had a change of heart, seeking to do God's will, and strive to do what He is calling us to do.

At the beginning of a new year it is a good time to ask ourselves what is Christ's message for each of us? With St Paul and his extensive writings as a guide, we can ask - do we hear an ongoing call to conversion, a change of heart to continually unlock and do God's will?