



Vox Populi

25 June 2026

The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul is celebrated every year on 29 June.

It can at first be surprising that two of the greatest Saints are honoured with a joint feast day instead of their own separate liturgical celebrations.

Their joint feast expresses something very clearly though: while they were two distinct persons, they were united in mission and martyrdom.

The pair are called the “two pillars of the Church”, an idea that has been expressed since the beginning of the Church.

Saint Augustine spoke of their unity in the 4th century: "One day is assigned for the celebration of the martyrdom of the two Apostles. But those two were one. Although their martyrdom occurred on different days, they were one. Peter went first, Paul followed. We celebrate this feast day which is made sacred for us by the blood of these Apostles" (Saint Augustine, Sermon 295, 7, 8)

Pope Benedict XVI compared them to the founders of Rome: “In Rome, since the earliest centuries, the bond that unites Peter and Paul in their mission has acquired a very specific significance. Like Romulus and Remus, the two mythical brothers who are said to have given birth to the City, so Peter and Paul were held to be the founders of the Church of Rome.”

The Church joins them in one commemoration, just as God joined them in a single apostolic mission.

They represent something very fundamental about the Church. Our unity is not found in being identical, but rather our unity is founded in the confession of the same faith and in apostolic communion.

May, like Saints Peter and Paul, we be united in Christ and united in His Church.