

Fr. Con writes

On Monday 22nd February, the Church celebrates the feast of the Chair of St. Peter. He was the first Pope. The feast points to the **cathedra** in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome – it is the Pope's chair, from which he teaches – a sitting position is a teaching position, as evidenced often by Jesus himself.

There follow seven quotations from the first of St. Peter's two Letters in the New Testament. Each of these seven has been chosen since each has much to say to us in a situation of Lent and Lockdown:

"Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour." (1 Peter 1: 5-7)

"Free your minds, then, of encumbrances; control them, and put your trust in nothing but the grace that will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed". (1 Peter 1: 13)

"Think of what Christ suffered in this life, and then arm yourselves with the same resolution that he had ..." (1 Peter 4:1a)

"Each one of you has received a special grace – so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others." (1 Peter 4:10)

"My dear people, you must not think it unaccountable that you should be tested by fire. There is nothing extraordinary in what has happened to you. If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed."

(1 Peter 4: 12 + 13)

"Bow down, then, before the power of God now, and he will raise you up on the appointed day; unload all your worries on to him, since he is looking after you." (1 Peter 5: 6 + 7)

"You will have to suffer only for a little while: the God of all grace who called you to eternal glory in Christ will see that all is well again; He will confirm, strengthen and support you. His power lasts for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5: 10 + 11)