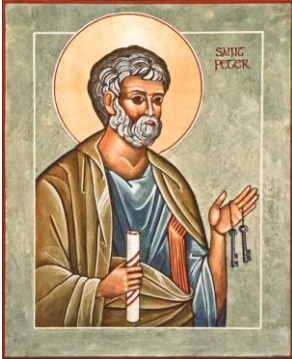


St Peter



he is the author of two Epistles.



demonstrated by the way the building has stood the test of time.



his enthusiasm, but he allows himself to be corrected. Peter's love of Christ is never in doubt, but what is most important is his readiness to change in response to Christ's teaching: it is this quality that makes him the right foundation for the Church.

St Peter's day is the 29th June, although we will be celebrating him in this parish on the closest Sunday, 30th June. He has a fairly standard representation in art, which can be seen in this modern icon by Marysia Kowalchyk. Peter is always shown as bearded, and is usually depicted as older than some of the other disciples, with grey hair, which is sometimes receding as well. He often carries keys, recalling the words of Jesus in Matthew 16:19: *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.* The scroll reminds us that

Peter is thought of impetuous and rather hot headed, but there must have been another side to him: the one shown in this wonderful picture of the repentant Peter, painted by Goya in the 1820s, towards the end of his life. Peter certainly made his share of mistakes, through weakness and misjudgement, but he always repented and was forgiven, and was "the rock" on which Christ proposed that the Church would be built. Some have found it strange that such a volatile character as Peter could be chosen as a rock, but the quality of this foundation is

Peter it the heart of several important episodes. In this picture by Ford Madox Brown painted in the 1850s, we see Christ washing Peter's feet at the Last Supper. As so often Peter's reaction was wrong (John 13:8): *No, you shall never wash my feet.* But Christ insists, and so Peter consents, only to get it wrong again (John 13), asking Christ to wash *not just my feet, but my hands and head as well.* Peter does get it wrong twice, misled first by an incorrect picture of his relationship with Christ, and then by