

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 1st February, 2009

Sunday, 1 February, 2009 – Fourth Sunday of the Year – Green

5.30 pm (Saturday) RICHARD JONES, R.I.P. Teresa Jones

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy MAGDELENE KEELER, R.I.P. Eileen McNiff

Monday, 2 February, 2009 – The Presentation of Our Lord – White

The Feast of the Presentation is among the most ancient feasts of the Catholic Church. There is a sermon on the Feast by the bishop Methodius of Patara written in the year 312. In addition to being known as the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, other traditional names include Candlemas and the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin. Traditionally the Western term "Candlemas" (or Candle Mass) referred to the practice whereby a priest blessed beeswax candles with Holy Water for use throughout the year. The "Purification" marks Mary & Joseph's compliance with the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12) which Mary has to go to the temple forty days after the birth of her first-born child.

4.30 pm WILLIAM DAVENPORT Brian Davenport

Tuesday, 3 February, 2009 – St. Blaise – Red

Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia and martyr (c316). He was a physician before he became a bishop. During the persecutions of Licinius he was taken to prison. While there he performed a wonderful cure of a boy who had a fishbone in his throat and who was in danger of choking to death. After suffering various forms of torture St. Blaise was beheaded.

4.30 pm EXPOSITION **Blessing of Throats**

5 pm FR. JOHN'S BIRTHDAY (Sunday) Edith



Wednesday, 4 February, 2009 – Requiem Mass – Purple

10 am MARY ASKHAM, R.I.P.

Thursday, 5 February, 2009 – St. Agatha – Red

Agatha, Virgin and Martyr, was born at Catania, Sicily, died in the year AD 250. One of seven women, excluding the Blessed Virgin Mary, commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass. Said to a beautiful young girl from a rich Christian family who, according to variations of her legend, having rejected the amorous advances of a Roman prefect, Senator Quintianus and was persecuted by him for her Christian faith. Quintianus, who was also her judge, eventually sentenced Agatha to death by being burnt at the stake. However, she was saved from this fate by a mysterious earthquake. Continued to be tortured, refused medical help she is comforted by a vision from St. Peter. After more torture she died in prison.

9.30 am EXPOSITION

10 am THE 'NEW' INNOCENTS IN GAZA

Friday, 6 February, 2009 – St. Paul Miki & Saint Companions – Red

Paul Miki (1562-1597), Society of Jesus. He and his Christian peers were forced to walk 600 miles from Kyoto to Nagasaki, the city which had the most conversions to Christianity, and Miki together with 25 other Christians was crucified on a hill overlooking the city. Among his martyred companions were priests, brothers, laypeople and children.

NO MASS TODAY

Saturday, 7 February, 2009 – Our Lady – White

10 am RICHARD JONES, R.I.P. Teresa Jones

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 8 February, 2009 – Fifth Sunday of the Year – Green

5.30 pm (Saturday) Welfare of CAROLE FRENCH

10 am Children's Liturgy ESTHER LI, R.I.P. Martha Quick

PETRINEWS

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Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time(B) – 1st February, 2009

These are the words . . . The opening four words of the Book of Deuteronomy, which, it appears, was a mistranslation of the Hebrew title into Greek. Deuteronomy means: "Second Law", whereas the Hebrew title was: "a copy of the law." For in many ways this book of the Bible replicates those Laws and instructions given to Moses already issued in the Books of Exodus and Numbers; of particular example is its reiteration of the Ten Commandments (Ex. Ch 5: vs 7-21). Like all the first five Books of the Bible it is mainly given over to the founding history of the Jewish religion and, most emphatically, the Laws and regulations which would govern the Chosen People – both in their spiritual life and in their temporal existence. It was interesting to be reminded by Rabbi Cliff Cohen, of Ramsgate's Reform Synagogue at the Interfaith meeting held here recently, and also somewhat mind-staggering to realise that our Jewish cousins have, in the Torah, 613 mitzvot (commandments) which comprise of 365 negative restrictions and 248 positive commands: commandments which govern, mould and permeate every aspect of Jewish family life and



worship. Why have I put this information here? To emphasise the importance which this small extract from the Moses story and his function as a "voice" for the Lord's words. This is Moses saying he wasn't the 'One'; much as John the Baptist did nearly some fifteen hundred years later. Here – slipped in amongst the many do's and don'ts which build up these particular Bible Scrolls: from worship, slaves, tithes, idols, judges, prophets, priests and kings through to homicide, witnesses, boundaries, war, marriage, moral behaviour, divorce – the Lord, speaking through Moses, tells of the coming of Christ: *I will raise up a prophet . . . I will put my words into his mouth.* In light of the strong tone of the scripture writings, and remembering that this Book was written towards the very end of the conclusion of the forty years spent by the Israelites wandering in the wilderness – with all its many set-backs, the times when the followers of Moses split into dissenting groups and some began to worship 'pagan' idols, the battles they encountered on this mammoth journey, even the Lord setting fire to part of their camp, let alone the shortage of

food which was overcome with the mystical 'Manna from Heaven' – we can surely understand the forcefulness with which Moses delivers the Words of the Lord. In the passage today God says that: *The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name shall be held answerable to me for it.* The Lord God also issues a warning in the text that we must listen only to the one true Word and not to make presumptions which purport to be commandments of the Lord. The journey undertaken by Moses and the Israelites, must have tried the patience of almost all his followers. Even the poorest of navigators could have traversed the Sinai Peninsular in decades less time than Moses! Yet the people, those who held true to the words of their God and could recognise in Moses a chosen person, stuck with this great odyssey, a voyage to the 'promised land'. Moses didn't make the final destination dying at the age 120. He did, however, see the land promised by God when taken up Mount Nebo. Perhaps we too can see a lesson for some of us in our own

CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

Today we celebrate Jesus our Teacher, who speaks with authority and to whom we must give our undivided attention.

..... Tomorrow (Monday) is the

PRESENTATION of the LORD

and we celebrate the close of the **Christmas Festival of Light**

At the 4.30 pm Mass, Candles will be blessed and then we will carry them in procession to welcome Christ the light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of his people.

This will be the last time we see the Crib until next Christmas. May I take this opportunity of saying thank you for your generosity in the Offerings both monetary and in kind with the Rosaries and Holy Pictures, many of which are already in The Gambia



MARY ASKHAM, R.I.P.

It was last Monday that I heard of Mary's death in the Q.E.Q.M. Hospital, after a fall in Margate the previous Friday. Last year she modified the Gold Frontal we adorn the Altar with at Easter, and only at the end of November she altered a super Frontal which we had on the Altar during Advent. "A dear and gentle lady who will be greatly missed" was one comment given to me on hearing the news of Mary's death. There will a Requiem Mass for Mary here at St. Peter's on Wednesday, 4 February. Her funeral and burial will take place in Ireland.

■ **EVENTS COMMITTEE**

There is a meeting of the Events Committee on Monday, 9 February, evening at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in helping on this committee are welcome.

**YEAR OF ST. PAUL
2008 - 2009**

From the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (ch 14: v 17)

The kingdom of God does not mean eating or drinking this or that, it means righteousness and peace and joy brought by the Holy Spirit.

■ **FIRST COMMUNION**

Sunday, 7 June, at 10 am Mass, Feast of The Most Holy Trinity. Parents please see Fr. John after Mass on Monday or Tuesday afternoon this week.

■ **CONFIRMATION**

Sunday, 10 May, at 3 pm. Candidates and parents please see Fr. John after Mass on Tuesday, 10 February.

■ **QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday, 14 February

There will be a Wine & Wisdom Evening in the Church Hall. Tickets are available from members of the Union of Catholic Mother at £4 per person, included in the ticket price are non-alcoholic refreshments and snacks – however, you will need to provide your own bottle of wine. Ideally teams will consist of six persons, if you can't find enough people to form a team please contact Frances (01843 831121) and she will find other team members for you to join. The evening will start at 7 pm and proceeds will be go to our own Westgate St. Vincent de Paul Society group and the UCM charities.

■ **A HOT DATE**

Margate, Friday, 20 February

Ed-Aid are having a Curry Night at St. Austin & St. Gregory's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Margate, commencing at 7.30 pm. Tickets/bookings are available now at £8 per person.

■ **MASS ATTENDANCES**

Third Sunday of the Year

Saturday (24 January) 5.30 pm 59
Sunday (25 January) 10 am 104

■ **PARISH INCOME**

Weekend of 24 & 25 January

Offertory Saturday £138.16
Sunday £148.34

■ **FRENCH PILGRIMAGE**

Proposed Pilgrimage to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the Cure d'Ars. Monday, 25th - Thursday, 28th May. This Pilgrimage is under PAX TRAVEL, and cost of £399 including flights from and to Stansted. Travel in France on air-conditioned coach. 3 nights accommodation in shared twin bedded rooms with private facilities in good 2-star hotel in Ars-sur-Formans, including 3 continental breakfasts and 3 dinners. Local guide in Ars, daily Mass and Devotions. If you are interested please contact Fr. John as soon as possible.

Anniversaries this week:

Angelina Earnshaw (2000), Geoffrey Woodcock (2000), John Hand (2001), John Connelly (2002), Margaret Chesworth (2005), Teresa Johncock (2007).

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions on Saturdays from approx. 10.30am until 11am and 4.45pm until 5.15pm. Other times by appointment.

HOLY COMMUNION

We warmly welcome all non-Catholic to our services. It is not permitted, however, to receive Holy Communion until a person is received into full membership of the Catholic Church. If you would like to know more about this, please contact Fr. John.

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the repose of the souls of the recently dead: Mary Askham, Carmel (Fred Kealy's sister) who died in Dublin. Also James Daniel and William Kelly. May they rest in peace.

The sick: Teresa Rowan, Archbishop Kevin, Sister Anna, Eva Brewer, Pat Whaley, Len Lane, Peg Bunnage, Myra Taylor, Joyce Doyle, Canon Clements, Teresa & John McCarthy and Carole French.

Hope Sloly in the war-torn Congo region and Sean McNiff in Afghanistan.

FROM THE FRONT

individual journey of faith from the wanderings of the Israelites. Times when we cling on to the "blind" faith which almost feels innate – faith which if we analysis it, or pull bits apart, or dive too deeply into the 'theology' of it, begins to, seemingly, diminish its magical lustre. Recognising that all our pilgrimages of faith are unique to us each. Equally acknowledging that the path we take isn't always straight, isn't always obstacle free – that we have to place all our trust in Christ Jesus, our Saviour, in the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God, trust so deep that it is the purest form of love . . . the love that says "I believe" not "I think" or "I hope"; and as scripture keeps telling us over and over again to listen to the words or as the responsorial psalm puts it: *O that today you would listen to his voice!* Maybe, we all, at times, need some visual reassurance when things are said to us; an image prop which both supports our understanding of a situation or comforts us in what our senses perceive. When someone says: "Pleased to meet you," an extended hand kind of reinforces the words, or softness of an expression and gentle smile when a person says: "I love you". We can hear these words over the phone or get an email or letter and know very well the sentiments are true, but none-the-less our human frailties can occasionally sow seeds of doubt – or is it our ambivalence to matters our eyes can't perceive? Moses in his historic journey was confronted with and used visual props given by the Lord God: burning bushes, river waters parting, the manna, water from the rock. All these miracles were outwards signs of the grace which was within the person; occurrences which were gifted by God to accentuate the validity of his prophets words or actions. So too, we have a similar situation with Jesus as he began his teaching ministry in the little Galilean lake-side town of Capernaum, home of Peter, Andrew, James, John and many of his first disciples. To capture the attention of the population Jesus had to have a spectacular opening; given the time he was living-in curing the sick and expelling evil spirits were tangible evidence of his powers. As if to confirm this we have in today's reading from Mark, and also recorded in the Gospel of Luke, one of the first instances of Christ wheedling his miraculous powers. Not only does he throw out the unclean spirit, or devil as Luke prefers to call it, but this 'spirit' shouts out aloud: *'I know who you are: the Holy One of God'*. Christ continued to perform many miracles in his ministry of evangelisation as he travels around the Holy Land. In the course of these series of miracles we come to the 'pinnacle' one, some would say, Jesus' feeding of the five thousand, and if we look at John's Gospel (ch 6 v 14): *the people seeing this sign that he had given said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world'*, we have the fulfilment of the promise of a prophet from our first lesson today.