

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 14th DECEMBER

**Sunday, 14 December – Third Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete*) – Rose**

**5.30 pm** (Saturday) CAROLINE BAILY'S INTENTION

**10 am** inc. Children's Liturgy ALAN TAYLOR, R.I.P. Maureen & Mark Hatfield

**Monday, 15 December – Feria – Purple**

**8 am** Fr. John's Thanksgiving

**Tuesday, 16 December – Feria – Purple**

**9 am** EXPOSITION

**9.30 am** Deceased members of the KEALY FAMILY, R.I.P. Fred & Marion

**Wednesday, 17 December – Feria – Purple – ☉ Wisdom**

**10 am** ANNA KELSO, R.I.P. Edith Collins

**Thursday, 18 December – Feria – Purple – ☉ Adonai**

**9.30 am** EXPOSITION

**10 am** FR. TIM PEACOCK, R.I.P. Fr. John  
A priest in Zimbabwe

**CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT at 7.30 pm**

**Friday, 19 December – Feria – Purple – ☉ Rod of Jesse**

**10 am** ALBINO RIZZO, R.I.P. The family

**Saturday, 20 December – Feria – Purple – ☉ Key of David**

**10 am** Welfare of MARY & LEN LANE and their FAMILY

**10.45 am & 4.45 pm** Confession

**Sunday, 21 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Purple**

– ☉ Daystar

**5.30 pm** (Saturday) GEORGE MARTIN, R.I.P. Ann Martin

**10 am** Children's Liturgy with Christingles LAURENCE LYNCH, R.I.P. Martha Quick

### Your Prayers are asked for:

Those who are sick: Fr. Barry who remains seriously ill, Teresa Rowan, Archbishop Kevin, Sister Anna, Eva Brewer, Pat Whaley, Len Lane, Peg Bunnage, Sister Stephen, Myra Taylor and Canon William Clements.

The recently dead: Dorothy McMahon and Peter Joseph Ryan, may they rest in peace.

Hope Sloly working in the Congo/Rwandan region of Africa and Sean McNiff in Afghanistan.

IF YOU WANT TO CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER CALL 835630 or EMAIL: [office@stpeterswestgate.co.uk](mailto:office@stpeterswestgate.co.uk)

# PETRINEWS

St. Peter's Church, Westgate-on-Sea

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## Third Sunday of Advent (B) – 14th December, 2008

The opening line of Isaiah: *The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.* These lines, and more, of the prophet Isaiah are spoken by Jesus in the synagogue in Nazara at the very beginning of his teaching ministry; just after he had completed the forty days in the desert where he was tested by the devil. We too can share in the sentiments of this Old Testament passage: for we too have been given the Spirit of the Lord, given when we were anointed with the holy oils during the Sacrament of Baptism – when the Spirit was first called to our souls, and later reinforced as we again received the Spirit in Confirmation. So those prophecies directed at the Christ are also directed at us: we have to fulfil the words written in the Book of Isaiah – or, at the very least, make some effort to be party to their fulfilment. And they are words of joy, of hope, of promised celebration. The exact opposite of the dour, downtrodden portrait which can sometimes be ascribed to Christians . . . for perhaps it is seen that a life in and with Christ is pretty funless by those who haven't got the message of our Saviour. Well, maybe, in the hedonistic life style portrayed in the godless 'civilisation' we are currently living in; the self-centred, me-first, must have, must experience, does it pleasure

me and mine society then perhaps the Faith community we belong to has the appearance of being a little dull, for the outward manifestations of 'success and happiness' are not so visible: the demands on our time, our service chip away at 'me time'. But it is in our hearts that we can experience the true pleasure, the true happiness. We all know and have known times when we have made someone happy; when, by some small courtesy, small gesture, a tiny gift, a brief smile, we have lifted the spirits of those to whom we are giving. Remember the times you did such things to your parents; the first time you made a breakfast tray for your mother on Mothers Day – burnt toast and cold tea maybe but recall the look on her face; the time perhaps your dad needed an extra hand doing some DIY – then you became that third hand passing the screwdriver or holding a shelf in place; remember the warm inner feelings that it gave you. We could look on those times as the beginning of our Ministry of Care. In the same way that we hoped and wanted to please our biological parents we should also wish to please our heavenly Father with our good deeds to his people. And so it is that if we follow the instructions of Isaiah, the example of Jesus Christ we can rejoice in our faith: rejoice and be happy, just as St. Paul says today: *Be happy at all times.* Prior to this Paul had written



CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

**GAUDETE – REJOICE.** *Our Joy is Christ. We celebrate our joy in Christ's redeeming work among us, realising that he who is to come is indeed with us, "unknown to us".*

**WHEN IS HE COMING – THE REDEEMER?** *The hymn we concluded last Sunday's Mass almost shows the Church's impatience as we wait for the Saviour. On Wednesday we begin the second part of ADVENT when we really feel like children who cannot wait for the night of the 24 December, as we sing the GREAT 'Os' at the Gospel Acclamation: O Wisdom, O Adonai, O Rod of Jesse, O Key of David, O Daystar, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel. These are the great Old Testament titles given to the forthcoming Messiah.*

#### ADVENT PENITENTIALS



Both take place at 3pm on TODAY (SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER) at  
(1) **St. Anne's** in Cliftonville;  
(2) **St. Benedict's** in Newington, Ramsgate.

#### THANK YOU

The response for volunteers to distribute the leaflets for the local Churches Together Christmas Services leaflet was . . . brilliant, especially the Saturday Evening congregation who took all but one set of leaflets. Everyone doing a little bit makes it so much easier and achievable.

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

From the letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews (ch 2: v 11)

***For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.***

#### CHRISTMAS DRAW

**TODAY Saturday, 13 December**

The Parish's GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW take places after the 5.30pm Mass. It will be held in the Hall and please do come in and see if you have won some money or a prize. There will be some refreshments available. ALSO it will be the December 100 Club's special draw after the Grand Draw . . . so we hope they'll be lots of happy people, rejoicing people! Sunday Mass goers look on the notice board for the results. They will also be available on the website.

#### RED BOXES PLEASE!

Please, please bring in your Red Box to be empty. The deadline is next weekend so your donations can be counted before the Christmas holiday period.

#### CHILDREN'S ADVENT DAY

Next Sunday at the 10 am Mass we will have our Christingle Celebration, an addition to the liturgy which expresses to our children the love that Jesus has for them and showing them that he is the light of the world.

#### CAROL CONCERT THIS THURSDAY, 18 DECEMBER, at 7.30 pm

The magnificent Whitstable Brass are leading the Christmas Carol Concert. Entrance is free, there will be a collection for Cliftonville based Ed-Aid. Why not invite your family, friends and particularly your neighbours to this the beginning of our celebration of Christ's first coming, the birth of Jesus.

#### CONFIRMATION 2009 ST. PETER'S ON 10th MAY

St. Peter's will host the Deanery Confirmation Celebration this coming year. It will be at 3 pm in the afternoon. Any young person 13 years and over, or any adult not yet Confirmed please contact Fr. John soon.

#### CHRISTMAS POSTERS

The Knights of St. Columba provide us with Christmas Posters each year. Please take one and display in your prominent window, that we are celebrating CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY.

#### REMINDER

If you have a child born between 1/9/04 and 31/8/05 that they need to apply for a place in a Primary School NOW. See poster in porch or apply online: [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola)

#### EVENTS COMMITTEE

To coordinate events such as the Christmas Fair, Summer Fete, etc. Members of the Parish are invited and encouraged to come forward and join the organising committee. The first meeting of this committee will take place on Monday, 9 February. Please let Fr. John or Phil know that you wish to join.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee met last week with some new members. On the porch notice board are the financial statements from both the Summer Fete and the Christmas Fair. It is hoped to keep the parishioners abreast of the financial position of the parish at regular intervals from next year.

#### FROM THE FRONT

in this Epistle a warning about the second coming; like St Peter last week it is a plea to be prepared at all time for: *you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night . . . 'how quiet and peaceful it is' that the worse suddenly happens.* Our extract today is simply the end of his letter where he instructs the church in Thessalonica to: *be at peace among yourselves . . . give courage to those who are apprehensive, care for the weak . . . think what is best for each other and the community.* St. Paul reminds the church, as he does us, that we do not live in the dark, *No, you are all sons of the light.* This echoes the words used by the evangelist John in the Gospel of today. The first seven lines (verses 6 to 8) of the reading are taken from the prologue of John's Gospel; a reading which will be heard on Christmas day at the 10.30 am Mass, it starts: *In the beginning was the Word.* Then in verse nine it says: *The Word was the true light that enlightens all men and he was coming into the world.* And if, as Paul says we are sons of the Light, then there, in these words of scripture, is the call to take up our inheritance, there is our legitimate mandate *to bring the Good News to the poor . . . bind up the hearts that are broken.* It is through our works of evangelism and charity that we can be the witness to speak for the Light. We can perform that task John the Baptist did, and all the prophet before him throughout the Old Testament, in preparing a way for the Lord, for, again from St. Paul: *God has called you and he will not fail you – so don't fail him, fail the Lord; take up the challenge of being a Son of the Light with selfless joy and let us rejoice in our faith on this Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday celebration which opens with the words: Rejoice . . . the Lord is near.*

#### CHRISTMAS CAKE SALE NEXT SUNDAY, 21 DECEMBER

A special fund raising Cake Sale by the SVP will take place after the Sunday Mass. They wish to provide "goodie bags" for the poor and 'shut-ins' this Christmas.

#### MASS ATTENDANCES Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday (6 December)	5.30 pm	55
Sunday (7 December)	10 am	103

#### Anniversaries this week:

Thomas Walsh (1993), Janos Schwager (1994), Ethel Wolfenden (1997), Dorothy Hartley (2002), Avril Frost (2004), Anna Kelso (2004), Jessemine 'Jay' Williams (2005).

#### 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.

**TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS AVAILABLE IN THE HALL AFTER THE 10 am MASS EVERY SUNDAY ~ ONLY 20p!**