

MASSTIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 15th FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday, 15 February, 2009 – Sixth Sunday of the Year – Green

5.30 pm (Saturday) GEOFF & KATE ALDOUS – Thanksgiving

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy WINIFRED MULLEN, R.I.P. Peter Mullen

Monday, 16 February, 2009 – Feria – Green

NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday, 17 February, 2009 – Feria – Green

4.30 pm EXPOSITION

5 pm TONY BURROWS, R.I.P. The O'Grady Family

Wednesday, 18 February, 2009 – Feria – Green

10 am MARY TURNER, R.I.P. Colleen

Thursday, 19 February, 2009 – Feria – Green

9.30 am EXPOSITION

10 am TERESA & JOHN MCCARTHY – Sick

Friday, 20 February, 2009 – Feria – White

10 am PAULINE SOUTHGATE, R.I.P. Caroline

Saturday, 21 February, 2009 – St. Robert Southwell – Red

Robert Southwell was born at Horsham St. Faith's, Norfolk in 1561. Educated at Douai. Joined the Jesuits in 1578 and ordained priest in 1584 at Rome, and became prefect of studies in the English College. After ordination left Rome for England with Henry Garnet. Robert spent six years in missionary work and moved under various disguises traveling in London from one Catholic house to another. Finally he was betrayed in 1592. Robert never gave any information about other priests or Catholics, even though for three years he was interrogated under atrocious torture. He was transferred to Newgate prison where he was confined in a dungeon, frequently chained in such a way that he could neither stand, sit nor lie down. He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn, 21 February, 1595. He was also a renowned writer and poet. Ben Jonson declared of one of Southwell's pieces, "The Burning Babe", that to have written it he would readily forfeit many of his own poems.

10 am EDWARD CLEMENT GIBSON, R.I.P. Sheila

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 22 February, 2009 – Feast of The Chair of St. Peter – White

PATRONAL FEAST OF OUR PARISH

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter is a commemoration of St. Peter, the first pope, and his primacy over the Church as well as an acknowledgment of the primacy of the pope today. The Church at Rome, and throughout the world, celebrates the memory of the day when the Apostle held his first service with the faithful of the Eternal City. The importance of this feast was heightened by the fact that 22 February was considered the anniversary of the day when Peter bore witness, by the Sea of Tiberias, to the Divinity of Christ and was again appointed by Christ to be the Rock of His Church. The Catholic Encyclopaedia says: Today was the day "quo electus est Petrus papa" (on which Peter was first chosen pope).

5.30 pm (Saturday) FR. DENIS FINBAR BARRY, R.I.P. Ray Lind

10 am Children's Liturgy SASI PELEGRINI, R.I.P. Pauline Ellul

IF YOU WANT TO CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER CALL 835630 or EMAIL: office@stpeterswestgate.co.uk

PETRINEWS

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

Priest in Charge: **FATHER JOHN SLATER**

Registered Charity No.:235468

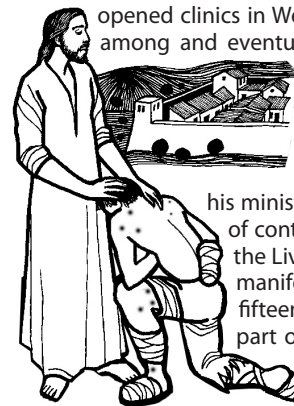
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Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B) – 15th February, 2009

When I look at the first reading today, and the Gospel as well, my mind goes back to school days in the fifties when, periodically we would get a visit from a priest or nun from one of the African missionary orders. The highlight of these visits would climax with the rare treat of seeing some grainy black and white film on the school projector, or very old still pictures of various aspects of life in the 'dark continent'; invariably there would be scenes taken from a Leper Colony showing people with cruelly disfiguring skin, fingers and toes eaten away by disease – men, women and children sitting around in ragged clothes or lying helpless on rough cots in mud huts. These images would leave an instant and almost indelible impression on my young mind . . . they didn't engender much pity in me, rather a kind of fear. Much the same as the reaction one can get when we hear or read about a medical condition, particularly when we look at a list of symptoms of the illness – it isn't too long before our mind attaches significance to one of these indicators and marries it erroneously to something in the way we feel or some 'abnormality' we perceive in our own health! So, in my mind, this Leprosy, a disease without cure, a curse which would eat our flesh away, was something so abhorrent that there could be no greater illness, no suffering so feared; and the people with it have to be avoided at all cost, unless we had the super human courage of the German Doctor Albert Schweitzer, who



opened clinics in West Africa, or the Belgium priest Blessed Damien de Veuster, who lived among and eventually died of leprosy in the Molokai colony on the Hawaiian Islands. Thankfully the disease is more understood and treatable due to modern science and medication. So why is it that we have so many references to the leprosy in the Bible? Obviously it emphasises the seriousness of the affliction, and shows the sufferer to be an outcast – prime material for Jesus to manifest the dual aspect of this part of his ministry on earth: both in effecting the cure and also by embracing the fear of contamination, to overcome its ostracising effect. We need to look back at the Leviticus text to see how much relevance the Jews placed on the outward manifestations of disease and its contaminating nature. Chapters eleven to fifteen, some 200 verses, are concerned with 'clean and unclean' – a large part of which is directly about 'leprosy'. However, the term leprosy is either a mistranslation or just a very liberal use of the word. For it doesn't relate to the modern disease – Hansen's disease. The Torah uses the word 'tzaraath' which is a general term for many skin conditions and wasn't a particular definitive disease. So it is that in the Scroll it is written that not only humans can be afflicted but inanimate objects: clothing material, belts, houses, plaster, building stones – all manner of things which show signs of 'sores', or mould as we would know them. It is in the Old Testament that we have prescribed actions which the Jewish believer has to take in order to purify themselves or their possessions from the contamination which is visible to their fellow citizens and the priest plays a central role in this 'cure'. What are we to take from the list of chronic leprosy, boils, burns, rashes, scabs, infected houses and so on which the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron about? How does this affect us in our modern world? If we look at these symptoms in ourselves not as diseases of

CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

Jesus, Friend of Outcasts. To bring help to outcasts, Jesus himself had to become an outcast and "stay outside in places where nobody lived".

CONFIRMATION 2009

I propose to begin the preparation course at 4.30 pm on

ASH WEDNESDAY – 25th February

On that day there will be an evening Mass at 5.30 pm, and so on this occasion I would like the Candidates to stay on as part of their preparation.

St. Peter's is hosting the Deanery Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 10 May, at 3 pm

■ PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Next Sunday, 22 February, is the last Sunday before Lent and happily this year our Patronal Festival, THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER will be celebrated.

At the Saturday evening 5.30 pm Mass we shall have the additional joy of celebrating the Baptism of Xavier Apiawin Alentis. Please pray for him and his parents, Philip and Kirsty Alentis.

■ VALENTINE QUIZ NIGHT

TONIGHT SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

Wine & Wisdom Evening in the Church Hall. Admission is £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. The evening starts at 7 pm and proceeds will be go to our own Westgate St. Vincent de Paul Society group and the UCM charities.

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

From the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (ch 7: v 1)

Let us wash off all that can soil either body or spirit, to reach perfection of holiness in the fear of God.

■ ST. PETER'S 100 CLUB TONIGHT SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

The first monthly Draw of the 100 Club takes place after the 5.30 pm Mass this evening. We still need some more members – so if you haven't joined or rejoined yet please do so this weekend – it's only £12 for the year!

■ A HOT DATE NEXT FRIDAY

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. See Phil today.

■ LENT BEGINS

A week on Wednesday, 25 February Lent begins with the Ashing Ceremony at both Masses: 10 am and 5.30 pm. Stations of the Cross will be integrated into the 5 pm Mass, Tuesdays, beginning on 3 March, except on the 17th – St. Patrick's Day – on that day Mass will be in the morning at 9.30 am, with the 5 pm Mass being transferred to the following day, Wednesday, 18 March.

■ SUNDAY STATIONS

Sundays: 1st and 15th MARCH

On two Sundays during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 3 pm in the afternoon.

■ PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Sunday, 29 March at 3 pm

There will be the Lent Deanery Penitential Service here at St. Peter's.

■ CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Archbishop Kevin McDonald will offer Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage at Aylesford Priory on Saturday, 30 May, at 3 pm. Couples celebrating their 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50, or 60th wedding anniversaries are specially invited. Please let Fr. John know if you qualify, and wish to take part.

■ MASS ATTENDANCES

Fifth Sunday of the Year

Saturday (7 February) 5.30 pm 58
Sunday (8 February) 10 am 100

■ PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 7 February & 8 February

Offertory Saturday £110.60
Sunday £144.95

■ FRENCH PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the Cure d'Ars. Monday, 25th – Thursday, 28th May. Under PAX TRAVEL, at a cost of £399. If you are interested please contact Fr. John as soon as possible.

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the repose of the souls of the recently dead: Georgette Ramsay (sister-in-law of Sister Helen), Malcolm Francis Hassell Medley, Mary Askham and James George Daniel, whose funeral took place last Friday. 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

the body but diseases of the soul; the sins we carry and those we continue to offend our Lord with, then, perhaps, we can see greater relevance in the scripture writings. True to his Jewish roots Christ refers the man in today's Gospel reading, who he cures of 'leprosy'; to follow the scripture teaching: *go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses.* For the past three weeks, including today's Gospel from Mark we have heard how Jesus cured people – and, if we include next week's reading of the 7th Sunday – which will be omitted due to our patronal feast of The Chair of Saint Peter – we have a series of four specific cures performed by Jesus on this early part of his Galilean mission. Firstly there was the man tormented by some form of mental anguish, then Peter's mother-in-law with a fever, today the man covered in the sores of 'leprosy'; next week would have been the paralytic who had to be lowered down through the roof of the house so numerous was the crowd seeking Jesus' healing powers. It is in the words our Saviour uses in Mark's account of this cripple who, lying on a stretcher, descends into the room where Jesus is, he says: *"My child, your sins are forgiven."* Perhaps that is the key to all the cures, and is the main lesson which these similar incidents project into our lives and the relationship we have with Christ. Whilst we all at times ask the good Lord to cure some form of malady, either for ourselves, family members, friends or even in the general prayers we use each week or day at Mass, it is not always possible or, maybe, in the wider design of things, fitting that cures of the flesh are achieved. What we can be certain of is that through prayer, good works, a willingness to confess that we shall receive the cure our sins, as the psalm says today: *Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.*

■ CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Next Sunday, 22nd February, the Annual Collection for the Cabrini Children's Society (previously the Catholic Children's Society) will take place. Cabrini provides wide ranging services to children, young people, families and to adults with learning disabilities. Cabrini has reached agreement with Archbishop Kevin that all donations received from parish sources will be held in a restricted fund that will go towards the following areas of work: Neighbourhoods, Support for Schools, Residential Care, Parish Work, Post Care Services. Want to know more about their work, visit www.cabrini.org.uk or Tel: 020 8668 2181.

Anniversaries this week:

Roy Evans (1992), Mary Byrne (1992), Charles Miler (1993), Eileen Dunn (1995), Oden Mahala (1995), Margaret D'Arcy (1998), Thomas Jones (2002), Mary Monica Turner (2006), Elizabeth Guilliams (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.