

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 15th MARCH 2009

Sunday, 15 March, 2009 – Third Sunday of Lent – Purple

5.30 pm (Saturday) RON WARE-LANE, R.I.P.

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy MICHAEL BAILY, R.I.P.

3 pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION

Monday, 16 March, 2009 – Feria – (Eve of St. Patrick's Day) – White

WITH THE OUR FATHER IN GAELIC

5 pm GEORGE MARTIN, R.I.P. Ann Martin

Tuesday, 17 March, 2009 – St. Patrick – Patron of Ireland – White

Patrick (Irish: Naomh Pádraig) (c387 - 461), a Roman Britain-born Christian. Born at Banna Venta Berniae, its location in Britain is unknown, places from Scotland to Somerset claim to be the place, however the strongest claim is that it is on the Furness peninsula in Cumbria. About sixteen he was captured by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After entering the church, he later returned to Ireland as a missionary.



9 am EXPOSITION

9.30 am CARMEL MCAULEY, R.I.P. Fred Kealy

Wednesday, 18 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

NO MASS TODAY

Thursday, 19 March, 2009 – St. Joseph – Patron of the Universal Church – White

In 1870, Pius IX had declared St Joseph "Patron of the Universal Church". His successor, Pope Leo, explained the foundations of this declaration. The Church's devotion to St Joseph, the Pope observes, arises from the saint's "two-fold dignity". He was both the true spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the foster-father of the Word Incarnate. For these two reasons, says Pope Leo, St Joseph "shines among all mankind" and approaches nearer than any other saint to the holiness of the Mother of God.

9.30 am EXPOSITION

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

Friday, 20 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

10 am ALBINO RIZZO, R.I.P.

Saturday, 21 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

10 am VERONICA HATCH, R.I.P. Frances Tunney

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 22 March, 2009 – Lætare Sunday (4th Sunday of Lent) – Rose

5.30 pm (Saturday) VERONICA HATCH, R.I.P. Union of Catholic Mothers

10 am Children's Liturgy ALAN TAYLOR, R.I.P. and Julia, Joe & Olivia
66th Wedding Anniversary to MYRA

Anniversaries this week:

Gabrielle Ingram (1992), Winifred Stribbling (1996), Edna Collins (1997), Vera Malcolm (1999), Irene Law (2001), Louise O'Connell (2001), Michael Baily (2002), Daniel McSweeney (2002).

PETRINEWS

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

Priest in Charge: FATHER JOHN SLATER

Registered Charity No.:235468

117 CANTERBURY ROAD, WESTGATE-ON-SEA, KENT CT8 8NW

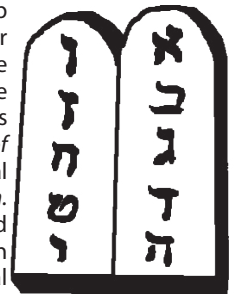
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Third Sunday of Lent – 15th March, 2009

"For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" words taken from today's first reading from Exodus, the Ten Commandments, and repeated again in Deuteronomy 6: 9. We look around this church interior and every other Catholic church, inside and out, and we see they are adorned with statues, paintings, prints, stain-glass windows; all manner of objects which portray in most instances an image of all the facets of God: the Father, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. In addition we have images of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Saints and other holy people. Aren't these exactly what the second commandment issued to Moses on Mount Sinai warned against; and prompted the threat of a 'jealous' God? Why do I focus on this commandment when there are nine others which all merit reflection and adherence? It is because for me, a Catholic, this one seems at first reading to run counter to the feelings and thoughts I have about such images. But were these thoughts 'planted' in me from early childhood? Is my understanding concerning this second commandment warped by the sights and sounds of a mystical Catholic Church in those incensed filled days of Latin Mass, of visions I still retain of my mother praying before a statue of Saint Joseph, or my sister – as a young girl dressed in white – crowning the statue of Our Lady as Queen of the May? For my faith, the personal belief I have, we all have to have . . . the intimate relationship with God our Father which lies deep within our soul; is that diminished or enhanced by the trappings of Catholicism? So how do I equate this simple commandment, and how can I say that my faith is bible-based and not the 'mumbo-jumbo' it is sometimes depicted as? So many questions from this one sentence: *You shall not make yourself a carved image of any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth . . .* The sentence finishes with the the real essence of this commandment: *you shall not bow down to them or serve them.*

The photographs of my child, my partner, my parents, the people I love and cherish above all other people; if I take the first part of the commandment on its own, doesn't that make these modern-day images contrary to the biblical teaching? But no! I don't bow down and serve them – much as my children, at times, may wish I did. It isn't the photographic reproduction captured, as it was in bits of silver on special photo-sensitive paper, or now-a-days minute dots of ink sprayed out from an ink-jet printer, or those moving images which the advent of video has given us access to; they are not what I love. It is the person themselves, or the memories which the images engender which I cherish. But even still there is the worry that we Catholics have set ourselves aside from the rest of the reformed Church; those who are firmly convinced that their understanding and translation of the Word of God, as presented in whatever rendering they use, strictly forbids this 'idolatry' which would damn us all at St. Peter's. If we follow their logic then there would be no masterpiece paintings or statues – imagine a world without the great artists: Bellini, Botticelli, Correggio, Donatello, Dürer, El Greco, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Murillo, Perugino, Raphael, Tintoretto, Velázquez! So what is it that we Catholics can look towards in Scripture which justifies the use of 'religious' images within places of worship and our homes as well? Whilst in the Exodus readings there is this condemnation uttered by Moses: *this people have committed a grave sin, making themselves a god of gold.* (Ex 33:31), it is contrasted by the later commands of God to Moses in the Old Testament books; commands



CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

Today we celebrate the foolishness of God that is wiser than any human wisdom: the utter folly of his love that allowed the destruction of the temple of the body of his Son. And we dedicate our ourselves anew to the Law of the Lord which gives wisdom to the simple.

■ PRAYERS FOR IRELAND

Tomorrow (Monday, 16th) there will be Mass at 5 pm when we celebrate the Vigil of the Feast of ST. PATRICK which will be followed by EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, with special prayers for peace in Northern Ireland after the recent shootings.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

At 9 am there will be Exposition followed by Mass at 9.30 am.

■ ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

On Thursday, 19th, we have another break from Lent when we celebrate THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, Husband of Our Lady and Guardian of the Child Jesus. As normal, for a Thursday, we will have Exposition at 9.30 am followed by Mass at 10 am.

■ STATIONS OF THE CROSS TODAY, SUNDAY at 3 pm

There will be Stations of the Cross this afternoon (Sunday) followed by Benediction. Also on Palm Sunday (5 April) at 3 pm. See next week's newsletter for details of Stations of the Cross before a midweek Mass

■ BRING & BUY (1)

NEXT Saturday, 21 March

Bring & Buy Sale in the Church Hall at 11am in aid of the Westgate's Union of Catholic Mothers' charity appeal. This year they are raising money to send a sick child to the shrine of Our Lady at Lourdes, France.

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

From the letter of St. Paul to James (ch 4: v 12)

There is only one lawgiver and he is the only judge and has the power to acquit or to sentence.

■ LENT TALK IN MARGATE Wednesday at 7 pm

This week the third of the Deanery Lenten Talks at SS Austin & Gregory, in Victoria Road, Margate. The speaker will be the Diocese Vicar General, Mgr. Richard Moth, who will take for his theme 'Holy Places in Jerusalem'. The evening starts with Evening Prayers, followed by a light supper in the Hall before the talk begins at about 7.30 pm. The first two talks have been well attended and were well worth going alone to hear.

■ INTERFAITH MEETING THURSDAY at 7.30 pm

The March Inter-Faith Talk takes place this Thursday, 19 March, at 7.30 pm, and is being held in the Thanet Reform Synagogue, 293a Margate Road, Ramsgate (just passed Pysons Road traffic lights). The speaker is Graham Millar, a Pagan, who will talk about Paganism.

■ READERS URGENTLY NEEDED The 10 am Mass is VERY short of Readers. This is an important ministry, so please contact Andy in the Sacristy after Mass.

■ WORRIED ABOUT VOCATIONS? Do something about it then! We are looking for a representative(s) to attend an event on 28 March (10 am to 3 pm) in Balham.

■ MASS ATTENDANCES 2nd Sunday of Lent

Saturday (7 March)	5.30 pm	63
Sunday (8 March)	10 am	115

■ PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 7 & 8 March

Offeritory	Saturday	£126.40
	Sunday	£190.05

■ LENT FAST DAY ENVELOPES - PLEASE RETURN THEM TODAY

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the repose of the souls of the recently dead: Veronica Hatch, Antonia Rizzo, Baby Aaliyah, May they rest in peace.

The sick: Carole French recovering from an operation last week, also in recovery from an operation Archbishop Kevin. Teresa Rowan, Sister Anna, Eva Brewer, Pat Whaley, Len Lane, Peg Bunnage, Myra Taylor, Joyce Doyle, Canon Clements, Teresa & John McCarthy and Teresa Daniel.

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

FROM THE FRONT

when constructing altars and places of worship to adorn them with golden images of cherubim: *You are to make a throne of mercy* (a throne for the Lord on top of the 'Ark of the Covenant') . . . *you are to make two golden cherubs.* (Ex 25: 17-18); later, after Moses, David gave Solomon instructions for the building of the Temple in Jerusalem: *four golden cherubs with wings outspread* (1 Chron 29: 18); further in the Holy Word we hear God speaking to Ezekiel, telling him what he wants, again in the building of a Temple. He says: *right round the whole wall, outside and inside, were carved cherub.* (Ez 42:17). Back to Moses again, in the Book of Numbers (21: 8) the Lord answered him, *'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. . . .'* *So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent.* Since the Christ, the Messiah, God made man, was manifest in the form of Jesus Christ the face of God was seen. Therefore the old Jewish notions about not even mentioning the name of God – for example the bible scribes would leave out a letter from the name so that the actual name of God couldn't be defaced – let alone portraying his image was avoided; although there is in Daniel 7: 9 the vision of the 'Ancient of Days': *one of great age took his seat. His robes as white as snow, the hair on his head as pure as wool.* The Reformation, and those earnest men who challenged the Church of Rome, undertook, as part of the wholesale changes which they felt necessary to 'cleanse' the Church of its 'idolatrous' way, stripping the trappings of Catholicism from their places and forms of worship. Yet they too have images, icons with which to concentrate the mind on their beliefs. Famously, at the very heart of the reformation in the Swiss city of Geneva, in its university, there is a wall of statues to the founding fathers of the Calvinist Reformation, and its lesser 'saints', who established it throughout northern Europe: Theodore Beza, John Calvin, William Farel, John Knox, William the Silent, Gaspard de Coligny, Frederick William of Brandenburg, Roger Williams, Oliver Cromwell and Stephen Bocskay. Carved images? Even in our own town the United Reformed Church carries, high on the front wall, a statue of one of the reformers. Isn't a simple plain cross of wood, unadorned by the figure of Christ, still an icon, still something reformers acknowledge, seeing it as a sign of the faith they express? No, in the revelation of Jesus, through his birth – being worshipped and adored by the Magi – later, as we read last week in his revelation at the Transfiguration to Peter, James and John, the image of our Lord was given to the world. Likewise the Holy Spirit was revealed at two specific points in the New Testament: that of a dove, at the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32), and as tongues of fire, on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). So the wearing of badges of a dove or banners depicting flames, which are common in Protestant churches, must also be 'likenesses' of God! So are our statue-filled churches the dens of corruption and evil, places of sin which countermand the second commandment given to Moses? I think not. Statues and icons, drawings and paintings are just reminders, objects which may, at times, help us to focus on the one God who alone we worship and adore – like that treasured photo of a deceased parent or child, a photo we may kiss but know we are not kissing the person just the memory. *I knelt at the feet of an angel who had shown them to me, to worship him; but he said, 'Don't do that: I am a servant just like you and like your brothers the prophets . . . it is God that you must worship.* (Rev. 22: 9)

Tea & Coffee after Sunday 10 am Mass

Come along it's ONLY 20p a drink!

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.

“You will tire yourselves out . . . the work is too heavy for you. You can not do it alone.” (Exodus 18: 18)

■ SPRING CLEANING

The church is in desperate need of some TLC (tender loving care). Why not volunteer to organise and/or be part of a team of people who will, before the Holy Week and Easter celebrations, make the church an even more fitting place to hear the Word of the Lord, commemorate His Death, Passion and Resurrection, and take part in our Sacramental life. Volunteer TODAY, put your name on the list in the porch.



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■ SECOND COLLECTION

Weekend of 21/22 March

There will be a retiring collection at next weekend's Masses for our local Westgate Society of St. Vincent de Paul. **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.** The money is to be used to supplement the funds for their work with the less fortunate members of our Westgate community.

Remember the SVP is always looking for additional volunteers to help in this rewarding ministry, even if you can only spare a few hours each month, or even just occasionally during the year . . . a small commitment is better than no commitment at all. See Terry Connor.

■ SUMMER FETE

NEW DATE SUNDAY, 5 JULY

Due to the Diocese organising a special day at Aylesford to mark the end of the Year of St. Paul (see other notice) the Summer Fete has had to change its date to the first Sunday in July at 11.30am, after Mass.

■ PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Deanery Penitential Service in Thanet:

(1) St. Peter's, Westgate

Sunday, 29 March at 3 pm

(2) Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs

on Thursday, 2 April at 7 pm

■ BRING & BUY (2)

Saturday, 16 May

A special Bring & Buy Cake Sale is being organised by the UCM for the Apostleship of the Sea. It will be held in the Church Hall after the Saturday morning Mass, at about 11 am.

If you wish to contribute cakes please contact Frances Tunney on 01843 831121. That is also the number to find out more about the UCM here at St. Peter's.

■ MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT

Saturday, 30 May at 7.30 pm

The Thanet Male Voice Choir will be performing a Charity Concert, here at St. Peter's, for the benefit of our local Catholic run Charity Ed-Aid. Ticket now available £5. See Phil.

■ YEAR OF ST. PAUL . . . THE CLIMAX

Saturday, 27 June

Archbishop Kevin will be attending a special day to mark the end of this Year of Saint Paul, 2008-2009, which commenced last June 29th on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. The event takes place at Aylesford Priory, near Maidstone, from 11 am until 4.30 pm. There will be Mass at 12 noon and a service of the Word of God at 3.30 pm. If you wish to attend, and would like to do so as either a Parish or Deanery group, please put your name on the list in the Porch. We can then work out suitable transport arrangements. Please make your mind up soon as there will be either coaches or mini-buses to book.

■ BREAKFAST TALK

Saturday, 4 April at 8.30 am

The Rev. Susan Wing will be giving a talk: "Life's Journey" at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Westgate Bay Avenue. Ticket available £4, available in the sacristy.

■ STELLA MARIS – LENT 2009

See poster on noticeboard in porch.