

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 18th JANUARY 2009

Sunday, 18 January, 2009 – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time – Green

THE START OF CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE

5.30 pm (Saturday) RAY LIND – Thanksgiving for 91st Birthday

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy JIM ALLTOFT, R.I.P., and FAMILY Wynn Alltoft

Monday, 19 January, 2009 – Feria – Green



NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday, 20 January, 2009 – Feria – Green



NO EXPOSITION & CHANGE OF MASS TIME

4.30 pm FR. DENIS FINBAR BARRY, R.I.P.

There will be a reciting of the Rosary starting at 4 pm

Wednesday, 21 January, 2009 – St. Agnes – Red



NO MASS AT ST. PETER'S TODAY

12 noon AT OUR LADY & ST. BENEDICT IN BIRCHINGTON
Requiem Mass and Funeral of Fr. Barry

Thursday, 22 January, 2009 – St. Vincent – Red

Vincent of Zaragoza, Patron saint of Lisbon. Martyred under the Emperor Diocletian in 304. Born at Huesca but lived in Zaragoza and served as the deacon of Bishop Saint Valerius. Imprisoned in Valencia for his faith, and tortured on the rack and toasted on a gridiron, Vincent, like many early martyrs, succeeded in converting his jailer. Though he was finally offered release if he would consign Scripture to the fire, Vincent refused. He finally died of his wounds.

9.30 am EXPOSITION

10 am DORA DAWNE Stephanie Davenport

12 noon Interdenominational Service of Prayer for Christian Unity

7.30 pm Thanet InterFaith Council – Talk by Fr. Benedict OSB

Friday, 23 January, 2009 – Feria – Green

10 am TERESA & JOHN MCCARTHY – Sick Tony McCarthy

Saturday, 24 January, 2009 – St. Francis de Sales – White

Saint Francis de Sales (1567 – 1622) was bishop of Geneva, Switzerland. He worked to convert Protestants back to Catholicism, and was an accomplished preacher. He is known also for his writings on the topic of spiritual direction and spiritual formation (including Introduction to the Devout Life also Defence of the Standard of the Cross).

10 am TONY BARRY, R.I.P. Sean Powders

11.30 am Interdenominational Service of Witness for Christian Unity

being held in front of the Church in the car park, with hot soup, roll & refreshments after in the hall.

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 25 January, 2009 – Conversion of St. Paul – White

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

Anniversary Mass

10 am Children's Liturgy SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THE FAMILY Eileen McNiff

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

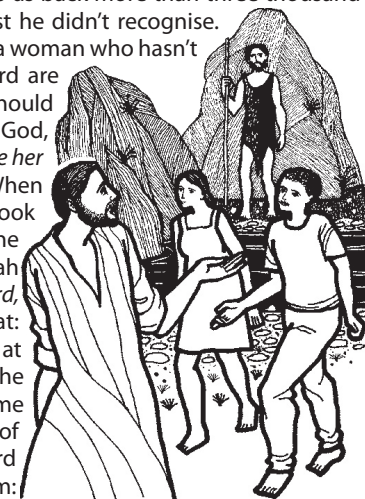
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Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (B) – 18th January, 2009

Two of the readings we have this weekend relate to being called, called by our God to follow him and do his work here on earth. The response we utter in today's psalm encapsulates the simplicity of what our answer should be: *Here I am, Lord!* . . . that's the easy part, yes we are here, gathered in God's House – the real essence of these two lines of scripture is the commitment we make with the second part: *I come to do your will.* The call by the Lord God has been made over the many thousands of years that humans have understood the magnitude, and wonder which this creation has given us. Its awesomeness and its power; beauty in the twinkling of light from a star's erupting birth or the gentle kiss on our toes of a placid sea's lapping wave as we stand on the seashore and gaze at the vastness of the ocean . . . through to the destructive forces of hurricanes and earthquakes. The reading from the Book of Samuel takes us back more than three thousand years. It opens with the call of God to Samuel – a call at first he didn't recognise.

Samuel was the first born son of Hannah. Here again we have a woman who hasn't conceived a child, a woman whose supplications to the Lord are finally answered; her pleading had included a pledge that, should she give birth, her child would be given over to the service of God, she had prayed: *take notice of the distress of your servant . . . give her a man-child, I will give him to the Lord for the whole of his life.* When Samuel was weaned, so about eighteen months old, Hannah took him to the Temple and left him there with the priest Eli. As she left Hannah said a prayer, now known as the Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2), a prayer which begins: *My heart exults in the Lord, and my spirit exults in God my saviour* (Luke 1: 47). The Temple at which Samuel was left was the central place of worship for the Tribe of Israel and situated in the town of Shiloh – at that time the city of Jerusalem was in the land belonging to the Tribe of Juda – and the Temple's chief priest was Eli. However, the Lord wasn't too pleased with the sons of Eli, scripture calls them: *scoundrels; they cared nothing for the Lord nor the rights of the priests as regards the people.* Scripture also says that Eli was told of the demise of his household; the message from God was: *I will raise up a faithful priest for myself.* It is in this way that Samuel was chosen by God – Samuel wasn't the one ordained by the Temple priest, or its hierarchy – that was to result in Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of Eli, being chosen with disastrous consequences for the Israelites – nor was he appointed by popular acclaim. No, his call was from God, and it was this special call he answered which would, eventually, elevate him to lead the people of Israel. We too are called, all in a special way – not the weighty governing of a people, unless we're called Gordon Brown or Barack Obama – our calling is to serve the Lord with our own talents, talents which could be as mundane a sweeping the church forecourt, counting the offertory collections, as Sacristan, being a Eucharistic minister or



CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

Christ calls each of us by Name.

In this celebration today we listen to what he has to say to us, prepare to use in his service the body that he has given us for the glory of God. We say with him: "This is my body which is given up for you".

■ FUNERAL OF FR. BARRY

Wednesday, 21 January, at 12 noon

The body of Fr. Denis Barry, who died two weeks ago, will be taken to the church of Our Lady and St. Benedict, in Birchington, in the late afternoon of Tuesday, 20 January, and there will be a Requiem Mass at 7 pm on that day.

On the following day, Wednesday, 21 January, at 12 noon, the Funeral Mass of Fr. Barry will take place at Our Lady and St. Benedict. The main celebrant will be Bishop Howard Tripp. Fr. John is expecting to concelebrate at this Mass, consequently there will not be Mass at St. Peter's on that Wednesday. Fr. Barry's body will be taken after the Mass to Minster for interment.

■ CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

Today, Sunday, we begin Christian Unity Week. St. Peter's is hosting TWO of the days during this Christian Unity Week.

Thursday 22 January, at 12 noon
A Prayer Service

Saturday 24 January at 11.30 am
An open-air Witness
in front of the Church

Appropriately this year's Christian Unity Week ends next Sunday, 25 January, which is also the day we celebrate THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, THE APOSTLE. The Holy See has allowed this feast to take precedence over the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, as we continue to observe the Year of Saint Paul.

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

From the first letter of St. Paul to Timothy (ch 6: v 25)

**The good that some people do can be obvious;
but even when it is not, it cannot be hidden for ever.**

■ OFF TO AFRICA

The Rosaries and Holy Pictures you have brought to the Crib, are on their way to The Gambia, West Africa, when Doreen Rolfe visits the country this coming week. Fr. John together with Doreen thanks you for your generosity, plus the cash donation. The Crib stays in place for another two weeks, until Candlemas (Monday, 2 February. Traditionally, Candlemas had been the last feast day in the Christian year that was dated by reference to Christmas.) Further donations of cash for Ed-Aid will be most welcome, so please continue to visit the crib.

■ INTERFAITH

Thursday 22 January, at 7.30 pm

As representatives of the Christian Community in Thanet we, at St. Peter's, are hosting the Thanet Interfaith meeting this Thursday, 22 January, at 7.30 pm. The main speaker will be Fr. Benedict, OSB, from Ramsgate Abbey who will talk on the subject: 'Right & Wrong'. Refreshments will be served. If you are able to supply any appropriate snacks please see Phil today.

■ TUESDAY MASS & ROSARY

Because one of the Christian Unity Services (All Saints, Westbrook) starts at 5.30pm, Tuesday's Exposition has been cancelled and Mass will be brought forward half an hour to 4.30 pm. The Rosary Group will recite the Rosary starting at 4 pm, leading up to the day's Mass and encourage others to join them at that time.

■ SHORT NOTICES

1. See Church Financial statements now on noticeboard.
2. Valentine Wine & Wisdom Quiz – Saturday, 14 February
3. Curry Night for Ed-Aid at St. Austin's, Margate – Friday, 20 February
4. Concert by Thanet Male Voice Choir – Saturday, 30 May

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK NOTICEBOARD NEXT WEEK

■ PAX CHRISTI TODAY

Today the retiring collection will be for the **Pax Christi Appeal**. Pax Christi, Peace of Christ, is the Catholic international gospel-based lay-inspired, peacemaking movement. This year the Pope's theme to Pax Christi is: Fighting Poverty to Build Peace.

■ REPOSITORY

Our magnificent Repository is OPEN EVERY DAY. Even when the weekday Mass is held in the Hall you can still visit our repository and see Edith.

■ SHEILA'S FATHER

Sheila has received the sad news that her father, Edward Gibson, died in Essex, just over a week ago. May he rest in peace.

■ MASS ATTENDANCES

Baptism of the Lord

Saturday (10 January) 5.30 pm 68
Sunday (11 January) 10 am 95

**TEA & COFFEE IN HALL
AFTER 10 am MASS**

FROM THE FRONT

Altar Server, as vital as being Church organist, and the many other examples of serving our Church community and, when it's done with the Spirit of the Lord in our hearts, it is done for the love of our God and the love of the fellow members of Christ's Church here at St. Peter's. But there are calls from the Lord which are way above the usage of our worldly talents. It is these calls which we must primarily answer: the call to prayer – to talk to the Lord God, to speak everyday to his Son Jesus our Saviour; and in our conversations with him to remember that listening is part of dialogue, so we should listen to his words, the words of scripture and the words he utters in our hearts and consciences. The call to love. To love God first and foremost and, as Christ taught us, to love our neighbour. Just listen to the psalm: *My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. Your justice I have proclaimed.* The call to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in our words and actions to everyone we encounter. Listen to these calls, answer these calls, they are calls to us all no matter what our rank or status. Is it by chance the we receive this call from God? For us, as with Samuel or, if we turn to the Gospel today, the two men who, maybe, fortuitously stood with John the Baptist, on the day following Christ's baptism in the Jordan, all answered our Saviour's call as Psalm 39 says: *you do not ask for sacrifices and offerings but an open ear.* Jesus had asked them the first question: *What do you want?* Doesn't he also ask that of us, continually ask us what we want. What do we want in our worship here today? Perhaps we too make the same answer as those two disciples, we too want to know where the Christ, our Messiah lives; we want to know the reality of the kingdom of God. And so we should listen and hear those same words of Christ, the words spoken to Andrew and his companion: *Come and see.* Are we worthy of this calling of the Lord? The last verse of today's psalm 39, verse 18, answers that question with this prayer: *As for me, wretched and poor, the Lord thinks of me. You are my rescuer, my help, O God, do not delay.*

■ PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 10 & 11 January

Offertory £272.43

White Rose Appeal £60.00

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the repose of the souls of the recently dead: Fr. Barry, Fr. Levins, Esther Li, Pauline Southgate, Edward Gibson and Sister Stephen. May they rest in Peace.

Those who are sick: Teresa Rowan, Archbishop Kevin, Sister Anna, Eva Brewer, Pat Whaley, Len Lane, Peg Bunnage, Myra Taylor, Joyce Doyle and Canon William Clements.

Hope Sloly who is returning to the war-torn Congo region and Sean McNiff in Afghanistan.

Anniversaries this week:

Annie Malpass (1997), Teresa Farrell (1999), Helen Martin (2002), Betty Dunne (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.