

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 21st SEPTEMBER

Sunday, 21 September – 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Green
HOME MISSIONS SUNDAY

5.30 pm (Saturday) RICHARD JONES, R.I.P. Teresa Jones
10 am inc. Children's Liturgy BUNNAGE FAMILY, Living & Dead Peg Bunnage

Monday, 22 September – Feria – Green

8 am FR. JOHN & SHEILA, Thanksgiving Edith Collins

Tuesday, 23 September – St. Pio of Pietreleina

Padre Pio (1887–1968), born Francesco Forgione, whose parents made a living as shepherds, was given the name Pio when he joined the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. Famous for his stigmata. Which first occurred on September 20, 1918, while hearing confessions. The stigmata were bodily marks, pain, and bleeding in locations corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ. This phenomenon continued for fifty years, until the end of his life.

NO MASS TODAY

Wednesday, 24 September – Our Lady of Walsingham

Our Lady of Walsingham. The title derives from Mary's appearance to Richeldis de Faverches, a Saxon noblewoman, in 1061 at Walsingham in Norfolk. The Holy House, containing the simple wooden structure which Richeldis had been asked to build in imitation of the home in which the Annunciation occurred, became both a shrine and the focus of pilgrimage to Walsingham. By the time of its destruction, during the reformation, in 1538 the shrine was one of the greatest religious centres in England. In 1897 Pope Leo XIII re-established the restored 14th century Slipper Chapel as a Catholic Shrine. The local Anglican vicar started a new interest in Walsingham, about 1921 and in 1931 he set up a shrine to Our Lady in a replica Holy House within the Anglican church.

NO MASS TODAY

Thursday, 25 September – Feria

NO MASS TODAY

Friday, 26 September – SS. Cosmos & Damian – Red

SS. Cosmos and Damian were twin brothers, born in Cilicia, (now known as Arabia), renowned for their skill in the science of medicine, they devoted themselves to rich and poor alike, accepting no payment. Under the persecutions Diocletian they were apprehended by Lysias, governor of Cilicia. Undergoing various torments, which they survived they were eventually beheaded in 287.

10 am TONY TUNNEY, R.I.P. The Family

Saturday, 27 Sept. – St. Vincent de Paul – White

Vincent de Paul (1581 – 1660) was born in Gascony, France, to a peasant family. Ordained in 1600, he lived in Toulouse, on his way back from a visit to Marseille, he was taken captive by Turkish pirates to Tunis, and sold into slavery. After converting his owner to Christianity, Vincent de Paul was freed in 1607. Returning to Paris, he was distressed to find many babies were brought to Notre Dame by parents unable to care for them. So, he established a home for them.

10 am SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (Westgate)
10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 28 September – 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Green

5.30 pm (Saturday) HARRY & EVA COOK, R.I.P. Paul Murray

10 am Children's Liturgy TONY TUNNEY, R.I.P. The Family

Don't miss out on Deacon James' talks on St. Paul and his letters to the church – put your name down on the list in the Church porch

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

Tel: 01843 831593

www.stpeterswestgate.co.uk

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) – 21 September, 2008

In the Gospel for the 24th Sunday of Ordinary time, the one we missed because of celebrating the feast of the Triumph of the Cross last weekend Jesus tells the story of the ungrateful servant who owed his master ten thousand talents. A talent was a considerable amount of money, and a talent was worth 16,000 denarii, one of which was the equivalent to a day's wage... I'll spare you the maths but let's say that we are talking about the current minimum wage rates for an twelve hour day; so we can roughly calculate the one denarius to about £66. In fact it's buying

power in the first century was probably more than these figures, however, this is just a parable, just an everyday example which Jesus used to put over His lesson. But is it? Jesus doesn't start the parable by saying "There was a landowner..."; no He is more specific: *'The kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner...'* So this isn't just a story, this is the way the Kingdom is, and it's not what we expect, not balanced with the kind of fairness, the kind of just rewards which we would anticipate if the kingdom were being governed or managed in our way, the way of the world. But it isn't, for as in the first reading from Isaiah: *'my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.'* Now we have Jesus fleshing out these prophetic words of the Old Testament; making clear to His followers, both then and now, to you and I, that the criteria by which we judge things isn't the way it will be in God's Kingdom. And, with his choice of using a labourers wage he offers us something tangible in our mind to grasp this element of what we must hope to be our heavenly home – the promised land – and that is our "denarius", that's our reward; we are offered no more or less than this. While I hear the words, somewhere

in my mind I can't help but placing myself in the position of the first workers to be called. How rough the deal must have seemed; presumably they were the best workers, the most diligent, the ones who got down to the cafe in the marketplace at the crack of dawn, eager and keen, possible filled with self confidence knowing that their wait for work, for wages would be very short, that an income was almost guaranteed. They will have worked from the chill of dawn through the heat of a Mediterranean midday and on into the evening; and worked at a rate probably faster and more efficient than any "Johnny-come-latelies". When pay time came, and the labourers who had put in just an hours work were given the denarius, those who had put in a full day must have been buoyed up with anticipation of a nice healthy bonus. How many of us could honestly say that we wouldn't have had the same thoughts, same expectations as those early-birds? We could even flip the argument on its head and wonder: can I go and slope off down to the cafe, make myself scarce when the landowner comes looking for labourers, stand in the shadows and hope I won't get seen.



CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

The love of God can not be measured by any human standard. It is incalculable. By human reckoning it must appear foolish. What sensible employer would behave like the man in the Gospel parable? We see a reflection of the love in St. Paul's dilemma. He loved so much that he could not decide whether it was better to live or to die.

HOME MISSIONS SUNDAY

Today is Home Mission Sunday and is a day of prayer for the spread of the Gospel in England and Wales. Let's pray that we're all renewed in our calling to seek out, and use the opportunities which present themselves to share and celebrate our faith. Help and resources to enable us to evangelise are provided by the Catholic Agency for Support Evangelisation (CASE), which is an agency of the Bishops' Conference. To help them in their work there will be a retiring collection today.

CHILD PROTECTION

There is a course fixed by the Diocese to be held here at St. Peter's Church Hall on Saturday, 4 October, to be run by Mrs. Helen Sheppard, the Diocesan Director. It will begin at 10 am, ending about 4 pm. Mass on that Saturday morning will be at 9.30 am. While this is primarily aimed at those involved with

NO MASSES ...
THIS WEEK THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT ST. PETER'S ON:
Tuesday23rd
Wednesday 24th
Thursday 25th

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

From the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (Ch 12: v 11)

Work for the Lord with untiring effort and great earnestness of spirit.

Children and Young People, so they should all really try to attend. It will also be useful for Eucharist Ministers to come along as certain areas relating to visiting the elderly are also encompassed in protecting the vulnerable.

PICK UP YOUR RED BOXES

If you brought in your Red Box to be emptied by Eunice then please check in the Sacristy to see if it has been emptied. Should you have forgotten to bring your Red Box in, or have been away for the past couple of weeks then please do leave it at the church in the next week.

KNOWING THE BIBLE

All in your own time, in the comfort of your own home discover more about the bible and St. Paul's contribution. Fill in a form this week and return it to Fr. John.

TALKING ABOUT ST. PAUL

Thursdays in October

In light of the current year being one dedicated by the Pope as The Year of Saint Paul, Fr. John hopes to have a series of talks on the Apostle over three evenings during October which will be given by Reverend Deacon James Burleigh. They will be given in the Church Hall on Thursdays: 2nd, 16th and 30th October. Please put your name on the list if you plan to attend all or even some of these talks. They will start at 7.30pm and last just over an hour with a tea or coffee break.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The hoped for two bottles per family for the 'Bottle Tombola' left a bit to be desired. Let's hope it is better this week! Also please start looking for Christmas gift items, particularly new items. Remember: NO JUNK, NO CLOTHES PLEASE. There is a box in the porch for your gifts - **NEXT WEEK** let's have loads of **good quality TOYS**. If we bring something each week, for the next 8 weeks, then we'll have a Fair to be proud of! Two or three more stall holders/helpers please, there's a list still in the porch.

2009 DIARIES & CALENDARS

The first batch of Diaries and Calendars are NOW ON SALE in the repository. There are limited numbers available, so get in there today. Other seasonal items on sale in the next few weeks. **October Bible Alive is in.**

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Two evening sessions for the Kent Episcopal area will take place for all those actively involved in parish ministry. They will be on Tuesday, 14 October and Tuesday, 21 October from 7pm to 9pm at The hermitage, West Malling. The cost is £10 per person for each session. Contact Mary Boley on 0208 672 7684/2442.

WORLD FOOD DAY

Thursday, 16 October

Isle of Thanet celebrates World Food day at the Winter Gardens, Margate, from 10 am to 3.30 pm. Admission is FREE.

THE GRAND DRAW - £150

Tickets for this year's Christmas Grand Draw are now on available. This is an important part of the parish revenue, so we all need to get 'selling' the Draw Tickets (£1 per book of 5 tickets). Take some more TODAY! Start to bring in the sold counterfoils and give them to Colleen.



FROM THE FRONT

.. well not just yet? There is an obvious danger to this, that we won't get picked at all; and therefore the rewards, however small we may consider them to be, will add up to a great big zero. Of course it's tempting to do nothing, easy watch others do the work. No doubt there were some shirkers among those who were chosen at the six, ninth and eleventh hours, but who are we to judge! Perhaps some of them had disabilities which made them less able to get work, to earn a reward. Whatever the reasons why they were the late or last ones to be offered work in the vineyard, God's vineyard, Jesus makes it abundantly clear that there is one reward, that it isn't on a sliding scale dependant on our perceived valuations ... there isn't any greater reward than heaven; but to get it we must answer the call no matter what time it is made, and we should accept the promises of Christ without anticipating more than he has offered, for what he has offered is fair and enough for us all.

**100 CLUB WINNERS: (Draw took place on 13 September)
£10 (no 03) Linda Scully; £5 (06) Veronica Arnold; £5((49) Phil Popple**

MASS ATTENDANCES

Triumph of the Cross

Saturday (13 September) 5.30 pm 68
Sunday (14 September) 10 am 74

SVP PRIZE TICKETS

The SVP have a national draw and ticket and a limited number of tickets are available from Terry Connor (10 am Mass Sundays) for 50p per ticket. Top prize is £4,000.

Anniversaries this week:

George O'Halloran (1990), Kathleen Morgan (1990), Peter Bennet (1991), Tony Tunney (2007)

Your Prayers are asked for:

For those who are sick: Fr. Barry, Sister Anna, Eva Brewer, Pat Whaley, Len Lane, Peg Bunnage, Alan & Myra Taylor, Sister Stephen and Canon William Clements.

For Peter O'Connor, brother of Isabel Plewis, and Nicholas Crocker, son of Ramsgate's Deacon Shaun & Mrs. Judith Crocker. May they both rest in peace.

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.