

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 22nd FEBRUARY 2009

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.

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

Baptism of Xavier Apiawin Alentis

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

Monday, 23 February, 2009 – St. Polycarp – Red

NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday, 24 February, 2009 (Shrove Tuesday) – Feria – Green

4.30 pm EXPOSITION

5 pm EDWARD CLEMENT GIBSON, R.I.P. Teresa Jones

Wednesday, 25 February, 2009 – Ash Wednesday – Purple

● DAY OF OBLIGATION: FASTING & ABSTINENCE ●

The first clearly datable liturgy for Ash Wednesday that provides for sprinkling ashes is in 960. Before that time, ashes had been used as a sign of admission to the Order of Penitents. As early as the sixth century, the Spanish Mozarabic rite calls for signing the forehead with ashes when admitting a gravely ill person to the Order of Penitents. At the beginning of the 11th century, Abbot Aelfric notes that it was customary for all the faithful to take part in a ceremony on the Wednesday before Lent that included the imposition of ashes. Near the end of that century, Pope Urban II called for the general use of ashes on that day. Only later did this day come to be called Ash Wednesday.

10 am Welfare of CAROLE FRENCH

5.30 pm PRIVATE INTENTION

Thursday, 26 February, 2009 – Feria – Purple

9.30 am EXPOSITION

10 am Welfare of ANN PHILPOTT

3.20 pm Funeral of Baby AALIYAH, R.I.P.

Friday, 27 February, 2009 – Feria – Purple

10 am JOSEPH CRIPPS – Sick Mary Best

Saturday, 28 February, 2009 – St. David, Patron of Wales – White

Transferred from tomorrow Sunday, 1st March

10 am MARY ASKHAM, R.I.P. Edith Collins

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 1 March, 2009 – First Sunday of Lent – Purple

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

10 am Children's Liturgy MAUREEN WELLS, R.I.P. Susan Wells

3 pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION

4.30 pm Reception of the coffin of Veronica Hatch

PETRINEWS

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

Priest in Charge: **FATHER JOHN SLATER**

Registered Charity No.: 235468

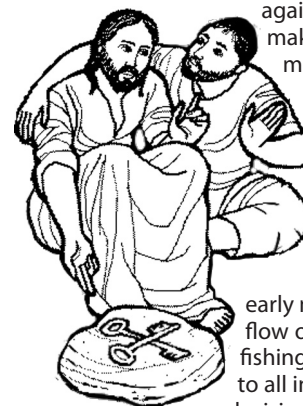
117 CANTERBURY ROAD, WESTGATE-ON-SEA, KENT CT8 8NW

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

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven", words taken from today's Gospel in which Jesus confirms the status of leader on his chosen disciple, Simon Peter. But these were not the opening scenes which point us in the direction of knowing that Saint Peter, our patron, was to be chosen by Christ as his 'first' Apostle. Both in the Gospel's of Matthew and Mark clearly Jesus calls Simon Peter first; in Luke's account we have Jesus getting into Simon's fishing boat. Following orders Simon Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch – deep water in the Sea of Galilee being 43 metres or over 140 ft. – for fishermen to get a boat-load of fish serves as a living parable, so this tangible and miraculous event is a multifaceted statement from Jesus. Not only in the words he uses: *from now on it is men you will catch*, but also in the symbolism of going to the deepest part of the lake and trawling the depth of their working world . . . beyond that, having caught this great haul of fish, no doubt it would have generated a considerable return for a night's work – especially given that prior to Jesus' intervention they'd had no fish at all – Simon Peter and his crew, James and John, instantly, without hesitation it seems, on arriving back at the shore: *leave their boats and follow him*, giving up what would have been a safe if somewhat ordinary living. All the time, in these scripture records, the pre-eminence of Simon Peter is made and remade time and time



again as Jesus so often addresses his other Apostles through Saint Peter, making him the primary conduit for his apostolic instructions, his divine messages. What did Jesus recognise in this 'simple' fisherman? Here we have a man born in a small town on the northern edge of an inland sea, the Sea of Galilee or Lake Gennesaret as it is sometimes called. It is said, in the Gospel of John, that Peter came from Bethsaida, although it maybe argued that he was from the town of Capernaum and that Bethsaida could just be a corruption of bet'shayid which means 'house of fishing'; or that it was just a suburb of Capernaum; for we know from scripture that Jesus had travelled to that Lake-side town after hearing of John the Baptist's arrest. Much of Christ's early ministry is centred in and around the north shore area, close to the inflow of the River Jordan. Peter would have been the senior member of the fishing crew, the boat would most likely have been owned by his father, but to all intents and purposes managed by Peter; so we have a man capable of decision making. Was it just chance which projected Peter from a fisherman to become the foundation on which the message of Christ was to be continued and maintained? Or was Jesus already, in the very early days of his short ministry searching for a vehicle which would give his words continuity? We read in John (Ch 1 v. 42), on the very first occasion which he encounters Peter, *Jesus looked hard at him* and then he said: *you are to be called Cephas*, the Aramaic word which in Greek is kēfā and means rock. So from that very first meeting Peter is singled out, selected as the leader, in every account, both in the Gospels, where Christ dictates the situation, and in the Acts of the Apostles, Peter's position is always that of principal Apostle. No one else is given such a clear and unambiguous mandate . . . Christ didn't give Peter a trial period, three

CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

Please don't get worried, we haven't gone into the furniture business! But what a curious title for the Patronal Feast, "The Chair of Saint Peter". No, we celebrate a man who became the first among the Apostles, someone like ourselves – weak and frail, easy to make promises but finds how hard it is to keep them. Peter the forthright, but put to the test is the one who three times denies his Lord, yet Jesus saw his potential and commissions him: "To feed the sheep, to look after the lambs", and this he has done since the foundation of the Church, through his successors at the See of Rome.

Death of Veronica Hatch. We shall miss Veronica's cheerful presence at the Saturday evening Mass, and her scrumptious Cake Stall at the various Fairs. We offer our condolences to her daughter Denise and her son-in-law David. May she rest in peace.

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

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

From the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians (ch 6: v 10)

While we have the chance, we must do good to all, and especially to our brothers in the faith.

■ BAPTISM OF XAVIER

This evening (Saturday) at the 5.30 pm Mass there is the Baptism of Xavier Apiawin Alentis, an added joy to our Patronal Feast. Please pray for him, his parents, Philip and Kirsty Alentis, and his Godparents.

■ UCM'S QUIZ SUCCESS

Last Saturday evening, St. Valentine's Day the Union of Catholic Mothers held a Wine & Wisdom Evening in the Hall. They raised a very healthy £218, which was split 50/50 between Westgate's St. Vincent de Paul Society, to help in their valuable work among the less well-off in our town, and the local UCM's own charity project – which this year is to send a sick child to Our Lady's Shrine in Lourdes. Particular thanks to Margaret who was the Quiz Master and to the other ladies who provided the catering.

■ ST. PETER'S 100 CLUB

Last Saturday, after the 5.30 pm Mass the first draw of the current 100 Club took place. The first prize of £20 went to Lesley Hennessy (18), two further prizes of £5 each went to Elsie Cummings (76) and Fred Kealy (55). Despite Fr. John's pleas last weekend we are still short of about 14 members – so if you haven't joined or rejoined yet please do so this weekend – it's only £12 for the year . . . and like Lesley you could well win it back!

■ LENT BEGINS

Next 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 only at 9.30 am, with the regular 5 pm Mass being transferred to the following day, Wednesday, 18 March.

■ STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sunday: 1st and 15th MARCH

Next Sunday will be the first of two special Stations of the Cross and Benediction services at 3 pm in the afternoon. There will be another one on Sunday, 15th March.

■ PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Sunday, 29 March at 3 pm

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

■ MASS ATTENDANCES

Sixth Sunday of the Year

Saturday (14 February) 5.30 pm 62

Sunday (15 February) 10 am 109

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the repose of the souls of the recently dead: Veronica Hatch, Antonia Rizzo, Baby Aaliyah, Margaret Hogg (sister of Deacon James Burleigh of Birchington), Georgette Ramsay (sister-in-law of Sister Helen), Malcolm Francis Hassell Medley, Mary Askham and James George Daniel. 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

months or so to see if he was fit to be a manager. On their first encounter he changes the name of his number one Apostle from Simon, Hebrew meaning listen or harken, to 'The Rock'. And we know that Peter listened to the words of Jesus the Saviour, for example in the Gospel account of John, which mirrors today's Matthew text, Peter says: *"You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know you are the Holy One of God."* Using the first person plural 'we' . . . not the royal 'we' the exclusive, pretentious 'we', but the familiar, inclusive 'we' Peter speaks for all the Apostles whom Jesus had chosen. In speaking for his companions doesn't Peter speak for us too? Aren't those same words ones which we echo: 'we believe: we know' when we pray to Jesus our Lord? Surely this is Peter speaking for the earthly body of the Church as he affirms not just his faith but those of all Christians for the past two thousand years. How can we be certain that Christ's intention was for Peter to continue his ministry and lead his Church? Scripture answers that. The evangelist John has the most complete post resurrection account . . . he was there, a witness to Jesus appearing to the Apostles. Where? On the third occasion, to complete the circle, it was by the shores of Tiberias, another name for the Sea of Galilee. Peter is again singled out as both the voice of his companions and the instrument through which Jesus addresses his chosen followers. In the ensuing dialogue on that early morning sea shore, over a charcoal fire with fish being cooked and bread broken, three times Jesus asks Peter – calling him by his birth name, Simon son of John – *"do you love me?"* Peter answers: *"you know I love you"* three times. On the first reply Peter makes Jesus says: *"Feed my lambs"*; to the second reply he says: *"look after my sheep"*; and on the final response he says: *"Feed my sheep"*.

■ PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 15 February & 15 February

Offertory Saturday £134.85

Sunday £185.86

■ 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.

Anniversaries this week:

Ivy Smith (1992), Josephine Candy (1992), Louis Cox (1995), Dora Clifton (1997), Matilda Sayer (1998), Marie Lafont (2000), Norman Fusco (2000), Patrick McDonnell (2002), Kitty Kirby (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.

■ WELSH FEAST DAY

At the 10 am Mass next Saturday, 28 February, we shall be celebrating SAINT DAVID, Patron of Wales. The feast really falls on 1st March, which is the First Sunday of Lent, so we have transferred the feast day for our Welsh parishioners.

■ CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

This Sunday we had advertised that there would be a collection for the Cabrini Children's Society (formerly the Catholic Children's Society). However, the Deanery meeting last Tuesday felt that the needs of the homeless in Thanet, particularly the work undertaken at St. Austin's in Margate, was a more pressing need. Cabrini are longer able to do the type of work which the Catholic Children's Society undertook with adoption since recent legislation has forced changes related to complying with possible 'gay' adoption.

■ INTERFAITH TALK

THIS THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY

This month's talk is titled 'The Environment' and the evening will be presented by Jiggy Bhoire who is a Buddhist. The evening begins at 7.30 pm and is being held at the Thanet & District Reform Synagogue, 293a Margate Road, Ramsgate. Just past the Pysons Road junction, near St. Mark's (CofE) Church.

■ SUMMER FETE

Advanced notice of the Summer Fete. This year it will be held in the Church's grounds. The date of the Fete will be Saturday, 27 June – the eve of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. There is a need for extra members of the Events Committee to assist in organising the day. The next committee meeting is on Monday, 9 March at 7.30 pm in the Hall, do come along, everyone is welcome to join in.

■ WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual Women's World Day of Prayer is being held on Friday 6 March. There are services at All Saint's Westbrook at 10.30 am (which is being led by our own Sr. Helen), Birchington Methodist Church at 2.30 pm and at St. Paul's Church, Cliftonville at 7.30 pm. The service, this year has been complied by Christian women in Papua New Guinea, the islands north-east of Australia, and all are welcome to join this world-wide expression of faith.

Catholic Deanery of Thanet **LENTEN TALKS 2009**

Ss Austin & Gregory Church
Victoria Road, Margate

7 pm Evening Prayer ~ 7.15 pm Light Supper
7.45 pm Talk

Wednesday 4 March

An introduction to the life and writings of St. Paul
Rt. Rev. Dom Laurence O'Keefe OSB

Wednesday 11 March

An introduction to the Church Fathers
Rt. Rev. Dom Paulinus Greenwood OSB

Wednesday 18 March

The Holy Places in Jerusalem
Rev. Mgr. Richard Moth, Vicar General of Southwark

Wednesday 25 March

Devotion to Our Lady, a Carmelite perspective
Rev. Fr. Brendan Grady O.Carm

Wednesday 1 April

An introduction to Holy Week
Rev. Fr. Peter Geldard, Chaplain to University of Kent

■ MRS. RIZZO

Mrs. Antonia Rizzo died peacefully in her sleep, during the night last Thursday, while visiting her daughter, Joan, and grandchildren in St. Albans.

Also a South African ex-parishioner's premature baby, Aaliyah, died in Hope Hospital, Manchester, this week. The baby's funeral is planned to be here, at St. Peter's, this Thursday afternoon at 3.20 pm.

LENT COURSES

MONDAYS: Starting 2 March for 5 weeks

1 - 2.30 pm at Castle Cottage, Sussex Grdns, Westgate
Contact Diana Davies. 01843 832674

TUESDAYS: Starting 3 March for 5 weeks

7.15 - 9 pm at Minster Abbey
also

7.30 - 9 pm at The Manse, 134 Westbrook Ave.

Contact Wendy Miller 01843 831849

WEDNESDAYS: Starting 4 March for 5 weeks

3 - 4.30 pm at Exbury, Sea Rd. Westgate. (12 places)
Contact Sr. Katy Clapham 01843 831415

SATURDAYS: Starting 7 March for 5 weeks

3 - 4.30 pm at The Welcome In, Christ Church URC
Contact Marion Kealy 01843 832604