

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 29th MARCH 2009

Sunday, 29 March, 2009 – **Fifth Sunday of Lent** – Purple

5.30 pm (Saturday) CYRIL DEGENHARD, R.I.P. Sue Maharry
10 am inc. Children's Liturgy TONY TUNNEY, R.I.P. Frances Tunney
3 pm **DEANERY PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

Monday, 30 March, 2009 – **Feria** – Purple

8 am Welfare of HILAIRE FRANCIS

Tuesday, 31 March, 2009 – **Feria** – Purple

4.30 pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
5 pm VERONICA HATCH, R.I.P. Eileen Davies

Wednesday, 1 April, 2009 – **Feria** – Purple

10 am DAN McSWEENEY, FRANK LANE, TERRY HOLLAND & CARDIJN ASSOCIATION, R.I.P. John & Jean Spicer

Thursday, 2 April, 2009 – **Feria** – Purple

9.30 am **EXPOSITION**
10 am RICHARD JONES, R.I.P. Teresa Jones

Friday, 3 April, 2009 – **Feria** – Purple

10 am GEORGE MARTIN, R.I.P. Ann Martin

Saturday, 4 April, 2009 – **Feria** – Purple

10 am ALAN SMITH, R.I.P. (*Nephew of Veronica Hatch*)

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 5 April, 2009 – **Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday)** – Purple

WITH BLESSING OF THE PALMS

5.30 pm (Saturday) CAROLINE BAILY'S INTENTION
10 am Children's Liturgy ELIZABETH SMITH, R.I.P. Teresa Jones
3 pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION**



Anniversaries this week:

John McGee (1994), James Murphy (1996), Dorothy Were (2001), Cecil Bushnell (2003), Alice Geese (2005), Sister Loyola Wilson (2007).

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the souls of the recently dead: Veronica Hatch, Antonia Rizzo and Srister Elizabeth D.J. May they rest in peace.
 The sick: Geoff Shawcase recovering from a stroke. Carole French and Archbishop Kevin, both in recovery.
 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 Sloly in the war-torn Congo region and Sean McNiff in Afghanistan.

PETRINEWS

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

Priest in Charge: **FATHER JOHN SLATER** Registered Charity No.:235468
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Fifth Sunday of Lent (B) – 29th March, 2009

Deep within them I will plant my Law. In this prophesy of Jeremiah today we have God announcing the 'New Covenant' to his people. It isn't a covenant the Lord God makes immediately, an instant solution to the woes of the broken covenant, a promise, a commitment made by God to Abraham when God called him, a covenant strengthened on Mount Sinai with the giving of the Commandments. This new covenant will, as the scripture says, only happen: *when those days arrive.* Has the 'New Covenant' been given? Or is it still in the process of being given? For, in part, this reading begs an answer to the statement: *There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour.* We know that through the Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the New Covenant arrived, was established with the chosen people; or perhaps more correctly offered to them, to us – the world of humanity – as their successors. But has this 'contract' with God our Father been fulfilled, been realised, or is it still being written, are there "i"s to be dotted and "t"s still to be crossed? The quote from scripture at the start of this piece is only half a sentence, the second part says: *writing it on their hearts.* And it is that which prompts me to think that maybe God's Covenant is still being pawed-over, scrutinised by the 'lawyers' of our doubting logic . . . not that God and his part of the 'bargain' is in any state of change . . . no, it is we humans, with our so called intellect, and our inability to accept the simplicity of the promises of God, accept them in the way a tiny child unconditionally, without a moments thought or hesitation or doubt accepts its mothers love. After all, this new covenant is so simple – too simple perhaps – firstly, love

the one and only God; don't create or make other objects, ideals, beings godlike, or hold them to have those qualities which are solely attributable to God.



Secondly, to love our neighbour, oh yes and with a twist: to love them as ourselves! Why are the simple things so hard to do? Bring back the 613 Mitzvo – the laws by which our Jewish forefathers lived, and Jews today still adhere. At least if we kept the majority of those Laws, which surround and encompass the Ten Commandments, we could feel some sense of satisfaction, could congratulate ourselves for being 'almost' perfect. Whereas, with this slimmed-down, bare-bone version – just two commandments to fulfil – it is pretty much all or nothing. For if we apply only one part of the twin aspects of this covenant we abrogate it, we terminate the function of the agreement which the Lord our God extends to us. That is why scripture uses the words: *Deep within them . . . on*

their hearts. Unlike the Commandments given to Moses and written in stone, those written on our hearts cannot be broken, can not be cast down and shattered. Like the deep sincere love we have for our child, for our mother, for those who experience it the 'real love' of their lives; these can not be erased, Tippexed out of the page of life, can not be overwritten like some computer disc. So too, when we fully accept the divine love of God, when we truly take it deep within our hearts then the New Covenant is established within us, within the soul of our being. This isn't a

CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

God promised; "I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind." Today we consider the cost of that forgiveness: the tears of Christ; his avowal: "Now my soul is troubled."

These are thoughts that we can bring with us this afternoon when we come to the Penitential Service, here at St. Peter's, at 3 pm, or for those who go to Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs, on Thursday, at 7 pm.

Next week is HOLY WEEK. Please try and enter the spirit of this especially sacred time, both at home and, if possible, in Church. On Good Friday morning commencing here at St. Peter's Church starting at 11 am we shall have the 'Walk of Witness, THE WAY OF THE CROSS, when we shall share with our brothers and sisters of the other Christian Churches in the procession through the centre of Westgate, bringing the message of Christ's redeeming love to those who live and work around us.

■ STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- (1) **TUESDAY at 4.30 pm**, followed by Mass at 5 pm
- (2) **NEXT SUNDAY at 3 pm**, followed by Benediction.
- (3) **MONDAY of Holy Week** at 4.30 pm, followed by Mass. **TUESDAY of Holy week** at 4.30 pm followed by Mass. Finally this Lent during the Walk of Witness on **Good Friday at 11 am.**

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

From the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (ch 13: v 5)

Examine yourselves to make sure you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you acknowledge that Jesus Christ is really in you?

■ LENT TALK IN MARGATE

Wednesday at 7 pm

The final of the Deanery Lenten Talks with Fr. Peter Geldard, Kent University Chaplain, at SS Austin & Gregory, in Victoria Road, Margate. The evening starts with Evening Prayers, followed by a light supper in the Hall before the talk 'Introduction to Holy Week' begins at about 7.30 pm.

■ REMEMBER – RED BOXES

Please bring in your Red Box before Holy Week for Eunice to empty. Leave them in the Sacristy. There are still a couple of Red Boxes left in the Sacristy from the last emptying!

■ CHURCH CLEANING

Would those ladies who volunteered to give the church a "Spring Clean" contact Phil this weekend to let him know what days you plan to come along next week.

■ CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY, 10 MAY at 3 pm

This year's Deanery celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place here at St. Peter's on Sunday, 10 May (5th Sunday of Easter) at 3 pm. Please remember to pray for our three Confirmandi from this parish: Naimh Hanrahan, Millie Monaghan and Asia Teagle.

■ 100 CLUB WINNERS

Last week the winners of this month's 100 club should have been published! So now here they are:

£10	(85)	Adegorey Family
£5	(22)	Lynda Scully
£5	(31)	Beryl Denney

■ MASS ATTENDANCES

4th Sunday of Lent

Saturday (21 March)	5.30 pm	63
Sunday (22 March)	10 am	115

CENSUS FORMS ONLY 50%: if you have not filled one in PLEASE do so today... EVERY HOUSEHOLD should complete the Census Form as this is part of a Deanery-wide Census – Forms in the porch

■ PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 21 & 22 March

Offertory	Saturday	£106.61
	Sunday	£144.67

■ DIARY DATES

● Saturday, 4 April at 8.30 am. Breakfast Talk by Rev Sue Wing at the URC Westgate. Tickets in Sacristy £4.

● Thursday, 23 April at 7.30 am. InterFaith Talk at Hartsdown College.

● Saturday, 16 May at 11 am. UCM Bring & Buy CAKE SALE in aid of the Apostleship of the sea.

● Saturday, 30 May at 7.30 am. Thanet Male Voice Choir Concert. Tickets available NOW at £5.

● Friday, 21 August - Friday 28 August. DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2009. Travel by Rail from £615 and by Air from £665. booking forms contact: Deacon Michael Kennedy on 020 7223 2747.

■ IS YOUR NAME DOWN?

- (1) Maundy Thursday Washing of Feet, we still need more six men.
- (2) Watch at Altar of Repose, just 15 minutes or so the stay awake and pray with Christ on Maundy Thursday.
- (3) St. Paul's Year End at Aylesford in June. There are limited places as this will be a Deanery-wide day pilgrimage. Please book your place as soon as possible. The cost will be less than £10 per person.

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.

Tea & Coffee after Sunday 10 am Mass – Come along it's ONLY 20p a drink!

FROM THE FRONT

corporate thing, something the whole church has to experience like some blinding flash of group revelation. No, this is in the smallest cell structure of Christ's body, his Church on earth, each of us as a stand-alone Christian. This is the core of individual faith, individual commitment, individual agreement to the New Covenant – we can't look around us and vicariously accept the faith – this has to be my contract with God, you have to make your own, you have to let the words of the Lord be engraved deep in your own heart... none of us can take the journey of faith on someone else's beliefs. Today's readings have a delicate connective structure; for if we look at the second reading we hear the letter to the Hebrews, a letter to the emerging Church from the seeds of Judaism. In it is addressed the critical and all-important role of the High Priest to the Jewish faith. It is the high priest for the Temple Jews who offers up the 'perfect' sacrifices. The Jewish Encyclopaedia states: 'the high priest was looked upon as exercising in all things, political, legal, and sacerdotal, the supreme authority.' That is why Paul spends so much effort in this letter to his fellow Jews explaining and confirming that Jesus was the High Priest, the one above all who offered himself in the ultimate sacrifice – but unlike High Priests descended from Levi – Jesus the Christ isn't offering this sacrifice of his body for the atonement of his sins, for he is sinless, but for the sins of humanity. This sacrifice of Christ is to be remembered and re-enacted deep within our hearts – permanently impressing its message of salvation and resurrection – over the coming days of his Passion. A passion which heralds new life, a passion which starts with joyous celebration as we welcome the Son of God as Jerusalem did on the first Palm Sunday, a passion which leaves us falling asleep when we are needed in prayerful thought, a passion which sees us idly standing by or even deserting the focus of our faith and – without even realising it at times – denying our faith and love of God by omission, a passion which in loneliness the seed born to save is made lifeless by man's actions, a passion which brings loss and emptiness, a passion which like the dead seed rises up to become the new life of God's covenant. Later in this passage from John (Ch 12: v 36) Jesus in answer to the question 'Who is the Son of Man?' says: "believe in the light and you will become sons of the light."