

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 23rd NOVEMBER

Sunday, 23 November – Feast of Christ the King – White

This Feast of the Kingship of Christ is relatively modern. Instituted on 11 December, 1925 by Pius XI, at the conclusion of the Holy Year. To read the text of the Papal encyclical which promulgated this Feast day go to the web on http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_11121925_quas-primas_en.html

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

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy PAUL QUICKFALL, R.I.P. The Family

It's the Christmas Fair after Mass in the Hall

IT WILL ONLY BE A SUCCESS IF YOU VISIT IT!

Monday, 24 November – SS Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions – Red

He was born in Vietnam in 1785. He became a priest. For being a priest and teaching others the Catholic faith he was beheaded in 1839 in Hanoi. St. Andrew was one of 117 martyrs who met death in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Andrew was beatified in 1900 by Pope Leo XIII and 1988 canonized by Pope John Paul II.

8 am PRIVATE INTENTION

Tuesday, 25 November – St. Catherine of Alexandria – Red

Catherine is said to have visited her contemporary Roman Emperor Maxentius and to have attempted to convince him of the error of his ways in persecuting Christians. She succeeded in converting his wife, the Empress, and many pagan wise men whom the Emperor sent to dispute with her, all of whom were subsequently martyred. Upon the failure of the Emperor to win Catherine over, he ordered her to be put in prison; and when the people who visited her converted, she was condemned to death on the breaking wheel (an instrument of torture). According to legend, the wheel itself broke when she touched it, so she was beheaded.

9 am EXPOSITION

9.30 am JUSTIN BUTLER – Sick Iris Brennan

Walsingham Minibus leaves after Mass about 10.20 am from Car Park

Wednesday, 26 November – Feria – 34th Week of the Year

NO MASS TODAY

Thursday, 27 November – Feria – 34th Week of the Year

NO MASS TODAY

Friday, 28 November – Feria – Green – 34th Week of the Year

10 am Deceased members of TRAYNOR & STOCKER FAMILIES, R.I.P. Gordon & Rosemary Traynor

Saturday, 29 November – St. Andrew (Transferred from Sunday) – Red

Andrew, Patron saint of Scotland, was one of the original 12 apostles of Christ, brother of Simon Peter. Both were fishermen in Galilee. He travelled to Greece, where he was crucified at Patras on an X-shaped cross, this was performed at his own request, as he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross on which Christ was crucified.

10 am MAGDALENE KEELER, R.I.P. Jenny & Jason Eldridge

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 30 November – First Sunday of Advent – Purple

5.30 pm (Saturday) JAN WARE-LANE, R.I.P. The Family

10 am Children's Liturgy GEOFREY & KATE ALDUS INTENTION

IF YOU WANT TO CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER CALL 835630 or EMAIL: office@stpeterswestgate.co.uk

PETRI NEWS

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

Christ the King (A) – 23rd November, 2008

On this feast of Christ the King we begin our readings with the words of Ezekiel. Here we have the prophet using the model of the Shepherd-King, because it is a most easily recognised image. Especially so in a time when pastoral farming was the main order of the day – intensive modern animal husbandry wasn't known – sheep were the leading animal product; relatively easy to maintain, their wool provided a replenishable source of clothing material, their flesh food which didn't contradict the religious views on 'clean' and 'unclean' animals, they were able to feed on all sorts of terrain – therefore the image of a shepherd and his sheep was often called upon to mirror those of a king, a leader and his followers, his subjects. Ezekiel was writing his prophecies at the time when the Israelites had just been taken into captivity by the Babylonians. He begins this part of his writings by echoing the Lord castigating the leaders of Israel: *Trouble for the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves!* The prophet continues to recall the Lord saying: *I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view;* as today's lesson begins. Later in this part of Ezekiel he relates the Lord's words: *I mean to raise up one shepherd, my servant David, and to put him in charge . . . David shall be their ruler.* This 'David' isn't the King David of Old Testament fame; for he died nearly 400 years before this prophecy. So who is this 'David'? Unlike the prophet Ezekiel who lived almost 600 years before our Saviour was born, we have the blessing of hindsight, we know who the new David is: Son of David, Son of Man, Son of God: all titles bestowed on Christ Jesus. So today we have the regal title of Jesus, a recognition by Christ himself of his status; not just as a shepherd, nor a leader of men but the majesty of his kingship; that he will rule over all men, will judge all men. This graphic description in the Gospel by Matthew comes at the very end of his ministry to the ordinary people. Following after a series of miracles; several vast gatherings – including the feeding both the five thousand and later another four thousand men, let alone the multitude of women who followed the Lord. It is only in Matthew that we have this passage of scripture, only in this Gospel do we hear Christ talk this way about his Royal position, his role, seated *on his throne of glory*. There is just a passing reference to kingship in Luke's Gospel, covering the reading last week about the 'Talents', he ends that version with the words: *But as for my enemies who did not want me for their king.* However, Luke doesn't, nor does Mark or John relate the words of Our Lord about his vision of glory, the time when he will judge us, judge all men, separate the sheep from the goats, as he puts it. Christ is talking in the temple to as many people who could fit in – talking not only to the Pharisees, but to the ordinary people of God's Chosen race – we know because the last line of Luke's Gospel before the Passion reads: *from early morning the people would gather round him in the temple to listen to him* (21:38). Here we have Christ talking to The Church, His Church on earth. These are the final lessons which



CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

CHRIST THE KING. Christ is a King on the model of the Homeric kings who called themselves "shepherds of the people". As a royal shepherd he is leading us to the Kingdom of the Father.

On Tuesday the Parish's Mini-Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, Norfolk, gets underway. Even if you are not physically coming with us, you can still share in the spirit of prayer, and if you would like us to include in our prayers at the Shrine someone - living or dead - please write their name and intention on a piece of paper and hand it to me by the 9.30am Mass on this Tuesday, the day we leave.

■ CHRISTMAS FAIR IT'S TODAY SUNDAY!

Please don't rush off after Mass, your lunch will probably taste even nicer after you have visited our Christmas Fair . . . and emptied your purses and pockets of just a few pounds. This is *YOUR* Fair, and only you can make it a success; so do call in, even if it's for just five or ten minutes.

Fr. John wishes to thank all the people who have worked so hard to prepare the Hall for today's Christmas Fair and said: "I am sure it will be a success."

■ CONFIRMATION 2009 ST. PETER'S ON 10th MAY

Once again the Catholic Parishes of Thanet will be holding a Deanery Celebration of this Sacrament. We are honoured to be having the event which will be at 3 pm in the afternoon. Fr. John already has two names for Confirmation, but any young person 13 years and over, or any adult not yet Confirmed please contact Fr. John soon.

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

From the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (ch 4: v 5)

He will light up all that is hidden in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts.

■ REMEMBER – NO MASSES

There will be NO MASS on Wednesday, 26 November and Thursday, 27 November as Fr. John is away on the Parish Mini-Pilgrimage at Walsingham. To those parishioners going the minibus will leave St. Peter's Church car park just after the 9.30 am Mass concludes. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN TOWEL WITH YOU AS THEY ARE NOT SUPPLIED AT THE ACCOMMODATION.**

■ CHRISTMAS IN TOWN!

Where are all you would-be 'actors'? A couple of men are needed to assist the production of the Churches Together Nativity Play, which has been specially written for the Westgate Christmas Lights Day, and will be performed in Station Road around 2 pm on Saturday, 6 December. See Phil if you can help out.

■ SVP APPEAL

Next weekend, the First Sunday of Advent, after both Masses, Terry Connor will be giving a brief 'Appeal' on behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul here in Westgate. It is the 175th anniversary of the SVP and there are posters in the Porch which you might wish to look at and see what is happening.

■ CHRISTMAS CAKE SALE

Sunday, 21 December

A special fund raising Cake Sale by the SVP will take place after the Sunday Mass. They wish to provide "goodie bags" for the poor and 'shut-ins' this Christmas season.

■ CAROL CONCERT

Thursday, 18 December, 7.30 pm

Make sure it's in your diary. The magnificent Whitstable Brass are leading the Christmas Carol Concert. Entrance is free, there will be a collection for Cliftonville based Ed-Aid. Take a poster to display.

■ WALK WITH ME

A novel way of preparing for Christmas, this excellent little booklet to use each day, just to help you put a few minutes aside. The price is only £1 . . . and if you cannot afford it just take one.

The Repository still has plenty of Christian Christmas Cards and other seasonal items for sale. Also you can ask to have the enlightening Bible Alive magazine put aside for you monthly, less than £2.

■ MASS ATTENDANCES

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday (15 November) 5.30 pm 66
Sunday (16 November) 10 am 120

I would like to thank everyone for all their prayers and good wishes, especially the support of the Westgate's Union of Catholic Mothers, both before and after my recent operation.
A BIG Thank You!
WIN CONNOR

FROM THE FRONT

our Lord preaches to the people who are in essence the infant Church – after this, through the trial, passion and death, he is with the apostles and his closest intimates. Let us not go beyond where we are today: the vision of Christ the King. We too, like the members of the emerging church, the church in its embryonic form, should listen in awe at his words today. He talks to us The Church – for we are The Church, we who are sitting in these pews are the body of Christ on earth. The analogy used by St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians (1-12:12) is more of a reality than maybe those words express. This faith we have, this church we belong to, means nothing without us, without our involvement; for we are the heart and lungs of the Church; we are the arms which reach out to those in need; the feet and legs which go the extra mile when required; the eyes which watch out for one another and our fellow man; the voice which can speak for the people with no voice. It is as a church, a holy people, that we are blessed: *you whom my Father has blessed, take your heritage the kingdom has prepared for you.* Clearly, our Saviour, our King wants us to see himself in those around us – not just the person sitting next to you in your pew, not in popes or bishops, priests or religious – rather to seek, or simply recognise those who really need us, me and you. Christ lists some of the conditions to see him in: thirsty, hungry, naked, sick, a stranger, a prisoner. There it is, quite easy! Or is it? The ragged tramp isn't difficult to recognise – seeing Christ in him, getting beyond the alcoholic breath, may be more challenging; saying hello to the stranger, the new neighbour – maybe somebody shunned because their skin type isn't the same as ours . . . seeing Christ in them should be simpler, for certain Jesus didn't have the lily-white skin of a northern European: and so on. But we also have to look for, reach out, feed, clothe, make welcome, go and see those who don't carry the trappings of poverty so outwardly – I am talking about those who are spiritually thirsty, spiritually hungry, naked of Christ's protecting Spirit, sick with the diseases of Satan, imprisoned by the ever growing greed and desires of this materialistic world. Seeing Christ in these people, the ones who on the surface appear to have everything, or at least sufficient, may be more difficult, may be the real challenge which twenty-first century Christianity faces, which we the Church, we the individual parts of this body of Christ on earth, has to resolve before we face Christ our King.

Anniversaries this week:

Gwendoline Taylor (1991), Michael Walsh (1993), Jean Neighbour (1994), Doris McMahon (1997), Lisa D'Angelo (1999), Brenda Shepherd-Jones (1999), Alfred Bennigsen (2001), Bridget Mann (2002), Kirk Broughton (2004).

Your Prayers are asked for:

Myra Taylor on the loss of Alan and for her own health. Also their daughter Julia here from USA. Also for those who are sick: Teresa Rowan, Archbishop Kevin, Fr. Barry, Sister Anna, Eva Brewer, Pat Whaley, Len Lane, Peg Bunnage, Sister Stephen, Canon William Clements. Hope Sloly who is working Congo/Rwandan region of Africa and Sean McNiff in Afghanistan.

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.