

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 25th JANUARY 2009

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

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

Anniversary Mass

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

Monday, 26 January, 2009 – St. Timothy & St. Titus – White

Timothy, (c17- c80) favorite disciple of St. Paul was converted to Christianity by Paul on his first missionary journey and went with Paul on his second and third journeys, highly recommended by the Christians in Lystra. Titus (d.107) came from a pagan family and he is also converted to Christianity during Paul's first missionary journey. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to the Council at Jerusalem. Titus was head of the Church in Crete, where he died.

NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday, 27 January, 2009 – St. Angela Merici – White

Angela Merici (1474–1540), was born at Desenzano near Lake Garda. When she was about 18 she became a Franciscan tertiary and later moved to Brescia where she devoted herself to good works. By 1531 she had gathered several female companions and in 1535 they dedicated themselves as the Company of St Ursula. But as yet they did not take public vows. This movement spread, and by 1612 the teaching renown of the Ursulines led to the establishment of the Order of St Ursula in France and a rapid expansion in Western Europe.

4.30 pm EXPOSITION

5 pm JOSEPH CRIPPS – SICK Marie Best

Wednesday, 28 January, 2009 – St. Thomas Aquinas – White

Thomas Aquinas (1224–1274), Doctor of the Church is the foremost Christian philosopher in history. Born to noble parents near Aquino, Italy, he became a monk in the Dominican Order in 1243. Before he died at the age of fifty, he authored numerous works of philosophy and theology that came to some 8 million words. The Summa Theologica and the Summa Contra Gentiles are his two most celebrated books.

10 am VIVIAN DALY, R.I.P. Peter Mullen

Thursday, 29 January, 2009 – Feria – Green

9.30 am EXPOSITION

10 am SISTER STEPHEN O.S.U., R.I.P. The O'Grady Family

Friday, 30 January, 2009 – Feria – Green

10 am FRANK SPAIN, R.I.P. Colleen

Saturday, 31 January, 2009 – St. John Bosco – White

John Bosco (1815 – 1888), Priest, and educator. Born in Becchi, Italy. Don Bosco put into practice the dogma of his religion, employing teaching methods based on love rather than punishment. Early in his priesthood he started an 'Oratory' for boys in Turin. Eventually, in 1859, this would become Congregation of St. Francis de Sales; thus his followers styled themselves the Salesian Society.

10 am MARGARET CLARKSTONE, R.I.P. Ruth O'Sullivan

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 1 February, 2009 – Fourth Sunday of the Year – Green

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

10 am Children's Liturgy MAGDELENE KEELER, R.I.P. Eileen McNiff

PETRINEWS

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

Priest in Charge: **FATHER JOHN SLATER**

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Conversion of St. Paul (B) – 25th January, 2009

"Jesus tapped me on the shoulder and said, Bob, why are you resisting me? I said, I'm not resisting you! He said, You gonna follow me? I said, I've never thought about that before! He said, When you're not following me, you're resisting me." – BOB DYLAN. Now there's a different theological source; the hippie, sometime drug-addled, folk-song writer of the late 60s. Perhaps, like me, you can see a kind of parallel in the words of Dylan's quotation to the sentiment described in the Acts of the Apostles regarding the conversion of Paul. But we at times need to look closer at our scripture readings; use them to bolster the 'blind' faith we have on the journey to our resurrection which will surely follow the second coming of Christ. In attempting to comprehend this prolific contributor to the message of Christ's new church, we have to recognise that a mighty seed-change took place in Paul's heart and his beliefs on the famous journey to Damascus. Paul wasn't an ungodly man, far from it. Born in the city of

Tarsus, situated in the south east of modern-day Turkey, Paul, or Saul as he would have been known by the Jewish community he was born in to – for it was common that people in those parts of the Roman Empire to have both a Semitic name and a Roman or Greek one as well – spent his childhood in the Greek-speaking capital of Cilicia. One major benefit he accrued from his home city was Roman citizenship; a gift from the famous Mark Anthony to the people of Tarsus at a time when most people living within the boundaries of Pax Romana were slaves . . . this citizenship would come to his rescue later in life (see Acts 22 vs 22-29). Paul was proudly Jewish – a member of the tribe of Benjamin: *I, am Israelite, descended from Abraham through the tribe of Benjamin, could never agree that God had rejected his people* (Rom 11: 1-2). We can see that even after his conversion he still acknowledges his Jewishness. Not surprising given his religious education which took place in Jerusalem under the tutelage of Gamaliel. Like Paul his teacher was a Pharisee, however, it appears that he, Gamaliel, was less of a zealot than the younger Paul, for it is Gamaliel's intervention to other members of the Sanhedrin which prevented the possible execution of St. Peter and the other Apostles following their arrest (Acts 5 vs 34-39). Paul, like many young men was fired up with a cause, was full of enthusiasm to rid his country, his synagogues, of the disciples of Christ. He even went to the high priest to obtain letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus giving him authority *to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way* (Acts 9 : 1). So it was that Paul, with no doubt heightened senses, set off with his band



CONTINUED INSIDE

Sorry! There are no Readings in Polish or Slovak this week as we are not using the Mass of the Sunday.

Fr. John Writes:-

Today we celebrate the key to Saint Paul's life and mission – his conversion. The phrase " a Pauline conversion" or "a road-to-Damascus experience" is part of our language, conveying the idea of a radical and drastic change of direction (not necessarily born of religious experience). In Paul's case, however, his conversion was entirely religious and, according to his witness, involved a dramatic encounter with the Risen Lord. Saint Paul then became God's chosen instrument to bring the Gospel, the Good News of Salvation to us in the Gentile World.

VALENTINE DATE

Saturday, 14 February

There will be a Wine & Wisdom Evening in the Church Hall. Tickets are available from members of the Union of Catholic Mother at £4 per person, included in the ticket price are non-alcoholic refreshments and snacks – however, you will need to provide your own bottle of wine. Ideally teams will consist of six persons, if you can't find enough people to form a team please contact Frances (01843 831121) and she will find other team members for you to join. The evening will start at 7 pm and proceeds will be go to our own Westgate St. Vincent de Paul Society group and the UCM charities. Even if you are unable to attend, perhaps you will have some other more pressing romantic evening planned, please buy a ticket and support this fund raising Parish event.

PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 17 & 18 January

Offertory	Saturday	£144.99
	Sunday	£135.81
Pax Christi		£57.90

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

From the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (ch 6: v 16)

Always carry the shield of faith so that you can use it to put out the burning arrows of the evil one.

ENGAGED

Congratulation to David Tunney, son of Frances and the late Tony, on his engagement to his long-standing girlfriend Emily, who hails from Chesterfield, and they both work and live in Brussels.

A HOT DATE

Friday, 20 February

Those lovely people from the Cliftonville based charity, Ed-Aid, are having a Curry Night at St. Austin & St. Gregory's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Margate, commencing at 7.30 pm. Tickets/bookings are available now (see Phil this weekend) and are £8 per person. There is a choice of Chicken Curry or Vegetable Curry, please advise when you book your tickets. If you require some wine (White or Red) with your meal then a donation of £6 per bottle would be appreciated, again please specify when you order your tickets.

ADVANCE INFORMATION

Saturday 30 May

We shall be hosting for Ed-Aid a Choral Concert to be given by Thanet Male Voice Choir. Ticket prices have still to be finalised, and will be decided when Doreen Rolfe returns from The Gambia.

REPOSITORY

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

MASS ATTENDANCES

Second Sunday of the Year

Saturday (17 January)	5.30 pm	66
Sunday (18 January)	10 am	102

MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

As it is the Feast of Candlemass there WILL BE MASS at 4.30 pm on that Monday.

■ ありがとう ודות רוקש धन्यवाद

With a bit of luck the four words above say "Thanks" in various languages: Japanese, Hebrew, Arabic and Hindi. Which is what we are saying to all the people who crowded the Hall on Thursday evening for the Interfaith talk with Fr. Benedict. Our especial thanks go to Beryl, who was so ably assisted by Eunice (O'N) and Rosemary, for doing the splendid catering.

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, Sister Stephen, whose funeral took place on Thursday, Carmel (Fred Kealy's sister) who died in Dublin on Wednesday, Also this week: James Daniel and William Kelly. 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

of fanatics to seek-out, persecute and exterminate the disciples of this 'new' faith which, to his mind, must have broken God's first commandment to Moses: *you shall have no gods except me* (Ex. 20:3). To those Jews of the Pharisee class Christians would have been seen as yet another Jewish sect which 'watered' down the written Law of the Torah and the Tanakh (Jewish Bible), and for Pharisees in particular, went against the Oral Torah: the Rabbinic interpretations additional to the written texts. It was a time when there were several leaders of sects, the Acts of the Apostles (5: 36-37) mentions two: Theudas and Judas the Galilean; the followers of Christ would have been seen in the same manner. To have a sect which had followers of someone who claimed to be the Son of God was too much for the pious and radical Jew newly fired up with religious fervour from his recent education in the Laws of Judaism. Of all the men the Lord could choose to take his message to the world he chose Paul, his fiercest oppressor. Often it is in hearing the potency of opposition that the real strength of our beliefs can surface. The term 'Devil's Advocate' is used where plans and ideas need to be tested and require the deepest scrutiny: so perhaps this was just what the Lord required, someone who had held convictions so deep that they willingly used the ultimate sanction in dealing with their theological foes. All at once Paul experiences Christ: the Light of Christ which blinded him; he was already on a physical journey so Paul can be said to have, on that journey, found the Way which is Christ, and, in the fog of his visual blindness, was exposed to the Truth which comes from the words of Jesus: *I am the Way, the Truth and the Life* (John 14: 6) – the Light of Life which is the Lord Jesus. Today would normally be the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. Coincidentally the second reading we hear today is the same as the Sunday reading and in it St. Paul asks us to make changes in our consciousness, to put aside our personal feelings: our pleasures or the other things we dwell on which focus in on ourselves – so it is a lesson of preparation, one which is commenced with change, change just as Paul had made when he received the Light of the Lord.

Anniversaries this week:

Olive Taylor (1991), Kathleen Bishop (1995), James Snelling (1995), Audrey Norton (1997), Edward Dunne (1997), Patricia Belton (1998), Michael Rhone (1999), Nora Firth (1999), John Keenan (2001), James Bray (2001), William Spain (2005), Lily Bowers (2006), Eileen Chivers (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.

