

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 4th MAY

**Sunday, 4 May – The Ascension of Our Lord – White**

**5.30 pm** (Saturday) DEREK & JEANNINE OPIE'S FAMILIES

**10 am** inc. Children's Liturgy GEORGE MARTIN, R.I.P. Ita & Andy O'Donnell

**Crowning of Our Lady will form the entrance rites to Mass.**

*(Please leave some room in the car park for the procession into the Remembrance Garden)*

**Monday, 5 May – Feria – White**

**8 am** THE PARISH PRIEST A Parishioner

**Tuesday, 6 May – Feria – White**

**9 am EXPOSITION**

**9.30 am** GEORGE MARTIN, R.I.P. Marion & Fred Kealy

**Wednesday, 7 May – Feria – White**

**10 am** DENIS GABBITT, R.I.P.

**Thursday, 8 May – Feria – White**

**9.30 am EXPOSITION**

**10 am** WELFARE OF HELEN & RORY'S FAMILY

**Friday, 9 May – Feria – White**

**10 am** THOMAS MORRIS, R.I.P. Mrs. Scully

**Saturday, 10 May – Feria – White**

**10 am** LUBIS & MICHAELA'S WEDDING IN KUBÍN

**10.30 am & 4.45 pm** Confession

**Sunday, 11 May – PENTECOST SUNDAY – Red**

**5.30 pm** (Saturday) WELFARE OF RON ALDRIDGE Joan Grieve

**10 am** inc. Children's Liturgy FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN & CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

**FOUR CHILDREN WILL MAKE THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT THIS MASS**

**3 pm** DEANERY CONFIRMATION  
AT OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, BROADSTAIRS

# 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

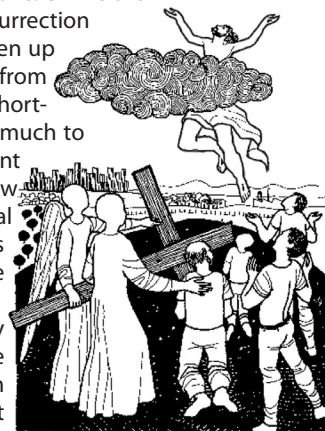
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## THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (A) – 4th May, 2008

In this week's Gospel we come to the climax of Matthew's narrative. Unlike the descriptions in Mark and Luke there is no mention of the resurrection itself – Luke writes: "... after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven"; in Mark's Gospel it is written: "... He withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven." Perhaps we are being short-changed by Matthew or maybe this 'Ascension' event was too much to comprehend and he played it safe by omitting the 'vital' element of the story! But on the other-hand it can be viewed as Matthew focusing our minds on the very essence of our Saviour's final words to His chosen disciples; that the miracle of Christ's Ascension might distract us from the message, the last message in this part of Christ's ministry to us through His first disciples.

Yet again he gives us another two new commandments: firstly to make disciples of all nations, to baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and secondly to teach them to observe all His commandments. So it's not sufficient to just gain new members of Christ's church here on earth, we must continue to nourish them in their new faith; or perhaps not so new faith. That we, by living out His commandments, foster and grow in our love of the Lord Jesus Christ and foster and grow that same love in others for the Risen and Ascended Christ. Finally we remember Jesus' very last words: "I am with you always; yes, even to the end of time." Now that's some guarantee. What more do we want, what more do we need? Nothing. We have in Our Lord all we need – all we'll ever need. Our problem, as weak and easily distracted humans, is realising the enormity of the gift we have in Jesus through His suffering and resurrection and His Spirit which is always with us.



### Your Prayers are asked for:

Paul Quickfall whose funeral took place last week. May he rest in peace.

Students at our local schools and colleges as they prepare to sit their A level and G.C.S.E. exams.

Remember George Martin, Mietek Kiersz and Gianna Thirlwall whose funerals all took place recently. May they rest in peace.

For those who are sick: Pat Whaley, Canon William Clements, Len Lane, Peg Bunnage and Alan & Myra Taylor. Also Fr. Barry who is moving to a nursing home in Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

### Anniversaries this week:

Adrian Hawkins (1991), Emmance Pressinger (1991), John Wright (1992), Victor Bruno (1992), John Osgood (1992), Sadie Gardener (1995), Percival Turner (1996), Mary Lawrence (1999)

**TEA & COFFEE after the 10am Mass on Sunday in the Hall**

**Fr. John writes:**

***Today we celebrate Christ's ascension to his eternal glory into heaven and express our Christian hope that where he, our Head, has gone before us, we, his Body, will one day follow.***

***At his ascension Christ prayed in the Spirit, and the Holy Spirit, whose special gift at Pentecost falls next Sunday, is the source of prayer and praise for the whole Church.. This same Spirit of God is resting on us as we offer this sacrifice of praise today.***

### ■ CORONATION SUNDAY!

Today, Sunday, 4 May, we celebrate The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ into His heavenly kingdom. It is also our 'Coronation Day' for His mother, Mary, both in the church and in the Garden of Remembrance. There will be a procession, weather permitting, with the May Statue accompanied by our youngsters from the Children's Liturgy.

### ■ ROSARY BEADS

Yes, they are still available, and we have them! As we start the month of May – Our Lady's month – we will be reciting the rosary after Mass on mid-week days. So why not pop in to our splendid Repository and buy a new rosary then come along to a mid-week mass and 'christen' it through this special devotional series of prayers to the Blessed Virgin.

### ■ LOOKING PRETTY – AT A COST!

Today, Sunday, we will be using our Garden of Remembrance to honour Our Lady at her statue which is a permanent feature of the garden. It is looking very pretty with the tending and care of the new gardener. A place fitting for the ashes of some of the loved ones of our parishioners, and so it should be. But it costs money, something we can not escape from. It was good to hear from Mrs. Irene Bray, who now lives in Scotland, and we received a donation from her towards the upkeep of the Garden. We will need more parishioners to make gifts to maintain the gardens in a fitting state.

### ■ CONFIRMATION 2008

#### **NEXT SUNDAY:**

**PENTECOST, 11 MAY, 2008**

**at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 3 pm.**

Just a week away now so do especially pray for Lucy, Mary, Alice, Charlotte, Oliver, Benjamin, Joseph, Nicholas and Phillip as their journey to this special Sacrament is in its final phase.

### ■ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Next Sunday is a very busy day. We shall start the day celebrating with the four children and their families as they make their First Holy Communion at the 10 am Sunday Mass. Do come along, even if you plan to go to the Confirmation Mass at Broadstairs, and celebrate a special day for: Hazel Joy Magsino, Penelope Curry, Nicole and Harry Milham.

### ■ 44 YEARS OF WORSHIP

That's what has been happening in this, St. Peter's "new" church. Sunday, 11 May is the date of our 44th anniversary of the opening of this building in 1964 by Cyril Cowderoy, Bishop of Southwark. To mark the occasion there will be a special anniversary Mass on the following Tuesday, 13 May at 6.30 pm in the evening. Fr. John has brought the Mass time forward one hour (to the usual evening Mass time) with the expectation that it will enable more parishioners to join him in observing the anniversary.

### ■ SUMMER FÊTE

#### **SATURDAY, 12 JULY**

Countdown to the Summer Fête has begun, just 50 working days to the event. To get it going we are looking for stall holders, prizes for the raffle, items for the various stalls – if you have the skill to make some things, the cash to buy things, the cheek to beg things, then that's what we need! Whatever you can do to help it will be greatly appreciated. You will find a large box for you to begin to fill with items for the fête. We need good quality goods, particularly bottles of liquor for a tombola stall. If you have one of those trendy garden gazebos then it would be appreciated

if you will loan it to the fête on July 12. A more complete list of stalls will be available in the next two weeks. If you have contacts with local businesses in the area then perhaps you could ask your contacts to donate a prize for our main raffle or items for stalls: jewellery, china and glass, toys, fancy goods, plants and vegetables – cash is always welcome. There will be a bric-a-brac stall for second-hand items; but we will not be selling second-hand clothing of any sort, nor do we want junk – so if you wouldn't want to buy it, then it's most likely not good enough for St. Peter's Fête!

### ■ MASS FOR NEW CATHOLICS

There will be a special Mass of Thanksgiving to welcome all New Catholics on Saturday, 17 May, 2008, at 11 am in St. George's Cathedral, Southwark. Bishop John Hine will preside at this Mass and he looks forward to meeting all new Catholics received into the Church this Easter season.

### ■ PAUL'S REQUIEM

Last Thursday, the 1st of May, took place the Requiem Mass and Funeral of Paul Quickfall. It happened on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. What an appropriate date for our church in Westgate to mark the passing of such a fine man; a hard working man who gave himself selfishly to his family firstly – the rows of immediate family of all ages a testament to the love they felt for him – and then the community, the wider community, as a Catholic through his devotion and service as a Eucharistic minister, as a stalwart of the SVP, school governor and in his duties with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade in Westgate. Their uniformed guard of honour served to amplify the high esteem Paul was held locally. A church so full there were not enough hymn books to go round as a congregation of hundred's celebrated his life and his passing.

### ■ EURO WEDDING

This Saturday, 10 May, a young couple, who have become new members of our parish and its life, Michaela Busiva and Lubis Matoucik are getting married in their home country of Slovakia. The

wedding takes place at 4 pm (local time) in the 14th century church of S. Catherin Alexandrijska in Dolný Kubín, a small town located in the mountainous northern part of Slovakia, about 14km from the Polish border. We will remember them on their special day, wishing them every happiness as they begin their married life and look forward to their return to Westgate.

### ■ NEW SOUTHWARK PRESIDENT

The Union of Catholic Mothers Westgate Foundation, are honoured to announce that Margaret Carter has been appointed Southwark Diocesan President of the UCM. Margaret was the Founder President of Westgate UCM when it opened in May 1991 and is a well known member of the Parish. I am sure you will all want to congratulate her and remember her in your prays as she carries out this important role.

### ■ WANT THE BEST FOR YOUR MARRIAGE?

A weekend seminar for married couples is being held at Aylesford on the weekend 7/8th June. Called "Celebrate Love" it is designed for couples who are committed to their marriage and are looking for insights into renewing and refreshing their relationship. To register or for more information call 020 7931 6064.

### ■ COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Today, Sunday, 4 May, Ascension Sunday, will mark the 42nd World Communication Day. There will be a retiring collection today.

### ■ 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.