

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 5th APRIL 2009

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

WITH BLESSING OF THE PALMS

5.30 pm (Saturday) CAROLINE BAILY'S INTENTION

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy ELIZABETH SMITH, R.I.P. Teresa Jones

3 pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION**



Monday, 6 April, 2009 – Feria – Purple

4.30 pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

5 pm REV. KEN JORDAN, R.I.P. Fr. John

Tuesday, 7 April, 2009 – Feria – Purple

4.30 pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

5 pm JOAN OLDER, R.I.P. Sheila Slater

Wednesday, 8 April, 2009 – Feria – Purple

10 am VERONICA HATCH, R.I.P. Ita & Andy O'Donnell

Thursday, 9 April, 2009 – HOLY THURSDAY – White

8.30 pm VERONICA HATCH, R.I.P. V. & R.A. Bone-Knell

After Mass of the Lord's Supper

EXPOSITION AND WATCH AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE IN THE HALL

10.50 pm **NIGHT PRAYER** (*Compline*)

Friday, 10 April, 2009 – GOOD FRIDAY – Red

10.30 am Confession

11 am **WALK OF WITNESS THROUGH WESTGATE** – *Check starting point*

3 pm **SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE DEATH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

4.30 pm Confession (*Approximate time – after Solemn Liturgy*)

Saturday, 11 April, 2009 – HOLY SATURDAY

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

THE EASTER VIGIL – White

8.30 pm **VIGIL SERVICE & THE FIRST MASS OF EASTER**

Welfare of BROTHER of John
& Jeanne Opie Jeanne Opie

Sunday, 12 April, 2009 – EASTER SUNDAY – White

10 am FOR ALL THE NEWLY BAPTISED

During the Mass Baptism of Alice Elizabeth
(*There will not be a Children's Liturgy today*)



3 pm **DEVOTIONS & BENEDICTION**

PETRINEWS

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

Priest in Charge: **FATHER JOHN SLATER**

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PALM SUNDAY (*Passion Sunday*) – 5th April, 2009

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. The first line of today's reading from the Book of Isaiah. Written towards the end of the period of exile in Babylon these chapters from what is called the 'Book of Consolation' sign-posting the forthcoming new or second exodus – another journey to the 'promised' land as once Moses had made from captivity in Egypt centuries before. A disciple's tongue. What could that be? A disciple is a follower, a learner, a believer, an advocate. Well, we all have a disciple's tongue, or at least the ability to 'speak' as a disciple. At the very end of the Gospel by Matthew in the last two sentences, part of a final commitment given to the original disciples: "make disciples of all nations . . . and know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." (Matt. Ch 28: vv 19-20), is the commission given to the early Church – to its founding disciples – to spread the Good News, the news of salvation, and, as these words were uttered by the Risen Christ, the message of Resurrection, and of hope in a life focussed on, and rewarded by Jesus the Lord. This reading from Isaiah also conveys the warning that the message we reveal of Christ's love for the world will not always be welcomed – despite this we should attempt, everyday to listen to the Lord; listen to him in whatever way he chooses to speak to us. If we make time, if we set aside our worldly preoccupations, and be aware of his message. It could be in a moment of isolated silence or it could be Christ talking to us through other people's needs. It could even be simply the smile of a stranger, the person at the bus stop or the supermarket check-out queue: that could



be the Lord saying: "love your neighbour". We are also reminded in this Old Testament reading with a prophesy of the upcoming Passion of Christ: *I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.* Twice in Mark's account we shall hear today Jesus is spat on and mockingly insulted: firstly by members of the Sanhedrin – the kangaroo court of Chief priests and elders – and then by the Roman guards at Pilate's palace. We too must be willing to accept the insults and derision from the secular society in this twenty-first century, the society which, for the most part, has turned its back on faith, or rather a faith in Christ Jesus for a faith in material things and ideals. In this year's Gospel reading from Mark of the Passion and Death of Jesus the Palm Sunday account differs from

the beginning to the other Gospels' readings of Matthew and Luke. When it comes to the story of those traumatic days of capture, trial, condemnation, derision and death which resulted in the Christ, the Promised One, enduring those foretold events, hinted at so often in the Old Testament verses, both Matthew and Luke's readings for this day open at a point during the Last Supper in the Upper Room. However, the extract for today from Mark's Gospel takes the story back a day. The die is cast, the plotters plan their moment of infamy. Then Mark takes us out of the city of Jerusalem, away from the streets which would soon be the tortuous route of our Saviour's bloody and painful journey to death, away to the tranquility of his often used village of refuge, Bethany. We hear that Jesus was at the house of Simon the Leper, and that a woman: *broke a jar and poured the ointment on his head.* If we look at the account in the Gospel of John (12; 8-1) we are told that

CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

"A week's a long time in Politics," they say. Another week begins today, associated with both Politics and Religion, when we see the mood change dramatically from 'Hosannah cries' to 'Crucify'. From Triumphancy to Humility. Jesus enters His city amidst the crowds and in the Upper room washed his Disciples Feet. We see treachery and mockery all mixed in with Love. A Crown of Thorns to a Risen Glory. Please enter into the spirit of Holy Week and share the sufferings of the Saviour of the World, and walk the Emmaus Road and hear the GOOD NEWS that JESUS IS LORD, eternally.

■ CENSUS FORMS

There are spare copies in the porch. We really need to close this, our part of the Deanery census, soon after Easter. If you only wish to put your name and address and no other details, that's OK, it gives the Parish the 'head-count' required. The "everyone know who I am", will not include your family in the figures, so please, those who haven't yet done so, fill in a form and place it in the box.

■ AN EASTER DAY BAPTISM

Next Sunday at the 10 am Mass of Easter Sunday we have the joy of welcoming in the newest member of our faith community Alice Elizabeth O'Halloran. Because of the Baptism there will be NO Children's Liturgy

■ UCM RESULT!

The Coffee Morning held in the hall two weeks ago brought in well over £100 for Westgate's Union of Catholic Mothers charitable project: to send a sick child to Our Lady's Shrine at Lourdes, France. Well done ladies, and a thank you to all those who came along to support the event.

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

From the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (ch 2: v 28)

Those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything.

■ CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY, 10 MAY at 3 pm

Please remember to pray for our three Confirmandi from this parish: Naimh Hanrahan, Millie Monaghan and Asia Teagle. 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.

◆ **Altar Servers** please note that there will be a rehearsal for this service on Wednesday, 6 May, at 7 pm.

■ MASS ATTENDANCES

5th Sunday of Lent

Saturday (28 March)	5.30 pm	62
Sunday (29 March)	10 am	102

■ PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 28 & 29 March

Offertory	Saturday	£174.10
	Sunday	£152.47

■ DIARY DATES

● Thursday, 23 April at 7.30 am. InterFaith Talk: "Islam – a global religion" 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.

● ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX Aylesford Priory October 2009

The Deanery are now beginning to plan for another trip to Aylesford. This time to mark the visit of the Relics of St. Thérèse to Aylesford as they journey around the various Diocese of England and Wales. It will take place over the weekend of Friday 9th, to Sunday 11th October. Please think about this unique opportunity and, when more details are known, get your place booked.

CHURCH FORECOURT

Last Wednesday Con-Men dumped wet tar on the forecourt. Hence the restrictions. We need to loan a high pressure hose . . . see Fr. John, also help needed to clear the mess

■ SMALL COMMITMENTS!

- (1) Maundy Thursday Washing of Feet, we still need THREE more 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 you place as soon as possible. The cost will be less than £10 per person.

Anniversaries this week:

Albert Rea (1993) and Edgar Daniels (1999).

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

FROM THE FRONT

this event took place at a dinner given by Mary, Martha and Lazarus. The division between houses in those times was not as rigid as we know today, house were often joined together or clustered round a common courtyard, so defining on whose territory the event took place is immaterial. It is recorded in three of the Gospels. This small incident, the pouring of expensive oil, somehow sets a very special scene. Again there is some confusion between the Evangelists as to where the oil was poured: over Christ's head or his feet, as John writes. The oil used was nard. Extracted from the plant Spikenard, native to the Himalayas of India and Nepal, it is an intensely aromatic amber-coloured essential oil, which is very thick in consistency; interestingly in modern alternative medicine this essential oil is used in palliative care to help ease the transition from life to death. The cost was the equivalent to a year's wages for a farm labourer! No wonder that there was such: *indignation, "why this waste of ointment? . . . this could have been sold . . . money given to the poor"*. Words not attributed to anyone in Mark's version but in the Gospel of John they are the words of Judas Iscariot – the man chosen by Jesus as the 'purse' keeper, the money-man, for Jesus' band of close disciples. As we are going through a time of economic crisis, bred out of greed perhaps, it is only too easy to recognise that saying: money corrupts. Maybe the continual closeness and relationship to money and worldly matters which Judas had as finance controller brought about his final demise? Jesus retorts to the claims that this act by a woman is a waste of precious, and to Jewish people sacred oil – its plant was used as one of the Eleven Herbs for the Incense in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. He tells us that: *you have the poor with you always, and you can be kind to them whenever you want*. Echoes of the two commandments of Christ; yes, to love your neighbour but firstly to love God, to honour God. In the same way that the woman anoints Christ with precious oil we too can anoint him with our prayers, with our presence at this Mass, as we follow his Way of the Cross this coming week. Your time in the week ahead is the oil of preparation, a memorial for the preparation of our Saviour for death. Let our devotion also be seen by our Lord in the same way that he said of the woman: *What she has done for me is one of the good works indeed!* (Matt 26:10)

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the souls of the recently dead: Kathleen Dean Bewers, Veronica Hatch, Antonia Rizzo and Sister Elizabeth D.J. May they rest in peace.

The sick: Geoff Shawcase Making excellent recovery from a stroke. Alison Moores, Carole French and Archbishop Kevin, 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.

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.