

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 7th SEPTEMBER

Sunday, 7 September – 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – Green

5.30 pm (Saturday) WINIFRED & THOMAS CARNEY, R.I.P. Teresa Jones
Baptism of Kacper Michal Hertel during the Mass

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

Monday, 8 September – Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary – White

The birth of Mary is celebrated as a feast in both the Roman Catholic calendar of saints and in most Anglican liturgical calendars, nine months after the feast of her Immaculate Conception (8 December). The feast originated in Jerusalem during the fifth century, as the feast of the basilica Sanctae Mariae ubi nata est (the Basilica of the Birthplace of Saint Mary), now the Basilica of Saint Anne. In the seventh century the feast took its present name of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

7.30 pm Rev. JOHN RICHARDSON & FAMILY The Parish

Tuesday, 9 September – St. Peter Claver – White

Saint Peter Claver (1580–1654) (Spanish: Pedro Claver Corberó) was a Jesuit who, due to his remarkable life and work, became the patron saint of slaves, of Colombia and of African Americans. As new slaves arrived, Claver met them with food and clothes. He cared for the weakest first and took the sick to a nearby hospital he had built. He shared the Gospel with all who would hear.

9 am EXPOSITION

9.30 am ALBINO RIZZO, R.I.P.

Wednesday, 10 September – Feria – Green

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

Thursday, 11 September – Feria – Green

9.30 am EXPOSITION

10 am JOHN MOULSDALE, R.I.P. Eileen McNiff

Friday, 12 September – The Holy Name of Mary – White

Feast of the Holy Name of Mary was made a universal feast by Blessed Pope Innocent XI to commemorate victory over the Turks at the Battle of Vienna in 1683. Prior to that it was just a local feast in Cuenca, Spain (1513). Pope Gregory XV extended the celebration to the Archdiocese of Toledo in 1622, by 1671 the feast was extended to the whole of Spain.

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

Saturday, 13 September – St. John Chrysostom – White

Saint John Chrysostom (c. 347–407), archbishop of Constantinople, was an important early father of the church. He is known for his eloquence in preaching and public speaking, his denunciation of abuse of authority by both ecclesiastical and political leaders. After his death (or, according to some sources, during his life) he was given the Greek surname chrysostomos, meaning "golden mouthed", rendered in English as Chrysostom.

10 am MARY DOOHAN, R.I.P. Kate Doohan

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 14 September – Triumph of the Cross – Red

5.30 pm (Saturday) CAROLINE BAILY INTENTION

10 am Children's Liturgy PAUL QUICKFALL, R.I.P. Mrs. Ellul

Remember November's the month of the Holy Souls ...have you got your Mass intentions?

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

Tel: 01843 831593

www.stpeterswestgate.co.uk

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) – 7 September, 2008

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts. These are the words from the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 94 v8). Harden not your hearts . . . looking at today's readings we may judge in the first reading from Ezekiel it seems to be the opposite to the sentiment of this phrase. Here we have the Lord saying: this is the way it is, either you confront the sinner, point out the error of their ways, or you will be held responsible for that sinner's death – the death of his spiritual being. Again, in the Gospel, Jesus, as part of his more formal teaching and instructions to His disciples as He moves near to the time of the cross, takes a hard-hearted approach to the unrepentant sinner telling His followers to ostracise those wrong-doers among the community who refuse to acknowledge their transgressions, their sins, their ill-deeds. But behind both these readings we can see yes a firmness of purpose, added to that a call to offer a life-line, a spiritual buoyancy aid to those who have drifted so far from the path that they are in mortal danger of losing their souls. When we think of the opposite of a hard heart we'd perhaps think of soft-hearted. Someone who is easily taken-in, a gullible person, too readily willing to concede to others' points of view. "Harden not your hearts" is far from this, it means don't build a barrier around your heart, a barrier which prevents the true meaning of the Word of God from entering you. It means don't be too ready to criticise our brothers and sisters in Christ or even to criticise the Lord God himself when things don't go our way. The verses in the Psalm recall the events of Moses and his journey through the desert with the Jewish people, leaving their time of slavery in Egypt. When the Lord tested the people, keeping them without water for three days,

so that some of them turned on Moses to the point where he fears for his life. In this extract we hear: "on that day at Massah", which isn't a place but Massah means testing, testing God; for the part of Exodus referred to in the Psalm ends with: *they put the Lord to the test by saying: 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'* The Lord does test us all from time to time, does test the resolve of our hearts, not the hardness of them. And this resolve extends into how we respond and react to our fellow beings. As we've already seen it means being both open and trusting, having resolve and firmness of belief, so much so that we are able to 'grasp the nettle', no matter how uncomfortable it may feel to us, and face up to our responsibilities towards our fellow man or woman. As Saint Paul advocates of us in his letter today we have to love our neighbour – love them in the same way we love ourselves. In loving our neighbour we can not hurt them, so when we face our neighbour, the one who has sinned against God, it can and ought to be an act of love. So it can not encompass any elements which can be viewed as revenge, or spitefulness, or jealousy, envy, bullying, anything which is solely self-serving, anything to boost our own standing in the community or conversely to denigrate that of our neighbour – it must start and end with this love, this mutual love which Saint Paul focuses



CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

Christ became our brother and made himself responsible for us, his brothers and sisters. He contracted the debt of mutual love. All he asks of us is that we do the same.

On Thursday, 11 September, Fr. Brian MacMahon returns to the parish and will be staying in the Presbytery when Sheila and I are away. I know that you will give him a warm welcome, he is very much looking forward to seeing you all again

We have for the past two years had a correspondence Bible Course created by a housebound parishioner and for some of you have found helpful. Minimus is keen to commence another course to commemorate the Year of St. Paul. New participants are welcome, all you need to do is collect a form from the Church Porch.

With regard to the Year of St. Paul, I am hoping to have a series of talks to be given by Deacon James Burleigh during the autumn.

■ CHRZEST PODCZAS MSZY TODAY, SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

There will a Polish Baptism during Saturday's 5.30 pm Mass as we welcome Kacper Michal, son of Michal and Magdalena Hertel, into the family of the Church.

■ WELCOME SISTER MAGGIE

Today we welcome Sister Maggie Kennedy, a Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa. She is making an appeal with the emphasis on "Mission for us all today, here and overseas." MISSION is the GOOD NEWS of JESUS. Give generously – it matters.

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

From the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (Ch 2: v 18)

May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you.

■ TOMORROW EVENING

Monday, 8 September, 7.30pm

The feast of the Birthday of Our Blessed Lady. We are having Mass in the evening to allow us to celebrate this mass for the special intention of praying for the future wellbeing of Rev. John Richardson, who is leaving the Anglican Parish of St. Saviour's in Westgate. The mass will include a unique opportunity for non-Catholics to receive Anglican communion at the appropriate part of the Catholic Mass. There will be a small reception after the Mass in our Church Hall. Naturally, the Mass is open to everyone to attend, so too is the reception, but please let Phil know today if you plan to attend so that the catering can be organised.

■ BRING IN YOUR RED BOXES

It's Red Box time again. During the next two weeks please bring in your box for Eunice Whitaker to empty it. If you don't have a Red Box why not have a word with Eunice and get yourself a box . . . it's an ideal way to get rid of all the little coins . . . the missions need them more than you do.

■ CHRISTMAS FAIR

The organising committee are looking for additional members to help them with this event. Also, there is a list at the back of the Church for volunteers to put their names down to run a stall. We especially want those people who have done so in the past to offer their help.

Time to start bringing in goods for the Fair. Next week we would like EVERY FAMILY to donate two bottles for the 'Bottle Tombola'. Also please start looking for Christmas gift items, particularly new items. As with the Summer Fete we beg you not to use the Fair as an opportunity to rid yourself of old, damaged, items. If you wouldn't buy it for your best friend then it will not be suitable for the fair. NO JUNK, NO CLOTHES PLEASE. There is a box in the porch for your gifts – bring one or two items every week for the next 10 weeks then we'll have a Fair to be proud of!

■ 2009 DIARIES & CALENDARS

Santa's been early to the repository. The first batch of Diaries and Calendars are NOW ON SALE in the repository. There are limited numbers available, so get in there today. Other seasonal items on sale in the next few weeks.

■ THE GRAND DRAW - £150

Tickets for this year's Christmas Grand Draw are now on available. There will be some in your newsletters . . . additional books are available from the porch. This is an important part of the parish revenue, so we all need to get 'selling' the Draw Tickets (£1 per book of 5 tickets).

■ MASS ATTENDANCES

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday (30 August)	5.30 pm	66
Sunday (31 August)	10 am	113

■ CHARITY CONCERT

Monday, 15 September in London

The Orion Orchestra will be performing a concert, England Rediscovered, in aid of The Passage, a charity working with homeless people, at St John's Smith Square, London SW1, on Monday 15 September 2008 at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £12, £15 & £18. Box office (020) 72221061 More details: www.orionorchestra.org.uk.



FROM THE FRONT

on. In fact in the Old Testament reading and the Gospel there is hidden this vein of love: have the courage of love to tell the wicked man to *renounce his wicked ways* Ezekiel reports the Lord saying. And Matthew recalls that Jesus wishes us to take the first steps quietly and alone with our erring brother – not to point the accusing finger to say: 'look at him, look what he's done wrong'. Rather we should respect the person, respect them with love, give them the opportunity to hear you, to understand you and agree with you. If they don't then take the next step, to seek one or two others to help you deal with the matter, and only if this fails to go to the wider community to hope that this might work. It is in these unassuming gentle ways that Christ has taught us to deal with the sinners around us. Being Christ-like in our dealings with mankind is marked out, is exposed by our ability to show our love in all situations to all people, all those who will listen, who will listen to His voice, His word, the Word of God. *O that today you would listen to His voice! Harden not your hearts.*

**DIARY DATES: Christmas Fair - Sunday, 23 November from 11.30 am
Christmas Carol Concert – Thursday, 18 December, 7.30 pm**

■ SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

Saturday, 13 September

Friends of Kent Churches annual fund raising sponsored Bicycle Ride or Walk. Your last chance at Mass today to sponsor Emma Whitaker (Saturday 5.30pm Mass, or sign the form at Sunday's Mass).

Anniversaries this week:

Thomas Walsh (1990), Martha Kaminski (1994), Margaret Lewis (1995), Michael MacMahon (1997), Eileen Penn (1999), Paul Warren (2005), Guy Hammond (2005)

Your Prayers are asked for:

For those who are sick: Fr. Barry, Sister Anna, Eva Brewer, Pat Whaley, Len Lane, Peg Bunnage, Alan & Myra Taylor and Sister Stephen who remains gravely ill at Lourdes Convent. Canon William Clements at hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex.

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.