

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 8th FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday, 8 February, 2009 – Fifth Sunday of the Year – Green

5.30 pm (Saturday) Welfare of CAROLE FRENCH

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy ESTHER LI, R.I.P. Martha Quick

Monday, 9 February, 2009 – Feria – Green

NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday, 10 February, 2009 – St. Scholastica – White

Saint Scholastica (c. 480 - 547). Born in Italy, she was the twin sister of St. Benedict of Nursia. After her brother went to Monte Cassino, where he established his famous monastery, she went to live in the neighborhood of Plombariola, where she founded and governed a monastery of nuns, about five miles from that of St. Benedict, who, it appears, also directed his sister and her nuns.

4.30 pm EXPOSITION

5 pm EDWARD CLEMENT GIBSON, R.I.P. Teresa Jones

Wednesday, 11 February, 2009 – Our Lady of Lourdes – White

The apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes began on 11 February 1858, when Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year old peasant girl from Lourdes admitted, when questioned by her mother, that she had seen a "lady" in the cave of Massabielle, about a mile from the town, while she was gathering firewood with her sister, Toinette, and Jeanne Abadie, a friend. Similar appearances of the "lady" took place on seventeen further occasions that year.

10 am ESTHER LI, R.I.P. Teresa Jones

Thursday, 12 February, 2009 – Feria – Green

9.30 am EXPOSITION

10 am WILLIAM & ANNE DAVENPORT Brian Davenport
5 pm Reception of the Body of James George Daniel

Friday, 13 February, 2009 – Feria – White

12 noon Requeim Mass and Funeral of
JAMES GEORGE DANIEL, R.I.P.

Saturday, 14 February, 2009 – St. Cyril & St. Methodius – White

PATRONS OF EASTERN EUROPE

Cyril (827- 869) and Methodius (826-885) were two Greek brothers born in Thessaloniki in the 9th century. Cyril's birth name was Constantine and he was renamed just before his death. They both became missionaries among the Slavs of Great Moravia and Pannonia. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavic peoples for which they received the title "Apostles to the Slavs." The Cyrillic alphabet, which they devised, is used in a number of Slavic and other languages.

10 am MARY ASKHAM, R.I.P. Colleen

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 15 February, 2009 – Sixth Sunday of the Year – Green

5.30 pm (Saturday) GEOFF & KATE ALDOUS – Thanksgiving

10 am Children's Liturgy WINIFRED MULLEN, R.I.P. Peter Mullen

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

PETRINEWS

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Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time(B) – 8th February, 2009

What a glum, depressive reading we have today from Job. He starts verse six with the words: *If only my misery could be weighed, and all my ills be put on scales?* There can't be many of us who at one time or another don't relate to these feelings. And yet, here we are just days after the wonderful feast day of the Presentation of the Lord, last Monday, when we were able to hold candles in our hands and as one of the alternate prayers of the day proclaimed: "May we who carry these candles in your church come with joy to the light of glory". It was indeed a fitting climax to our Christmas season. But Job, poor Job... well not so poor to begin with! We are told in the Book that he had seven sons, three daughters and that he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred oxen, five hundred she-donkeys, and many servants – the image of a very wealthy man. Life for Job's children seemed to be an endless series of parties and banquets – the sub text seems to be that Job wasn't too happy with the decadent behaviour of his off-spring and periodically would send for his children and offer at his home



a purification sacrifice for them. The Lord God recognised Job as a: *sound and honest man who fears God and shuns evil.* Yet there would be a series of tests which would try the patience of the saintliest person. In the struggle between good and evil, between the Lord and Satan, the devil visited Job with all sorts of calamities, bit by bit all his wealth in livestock was stolen, his servant murdered, even his children all killed when the house they were partying in was struck by a hurricane and collapsed. Not enough to make him curse the Lord, Job says: *The Lord gave, the Lord has taken back. Blessed be the name of the Lord!* (Job 1: 21). The Devil still not satisfied with Job's continued faith in the Lord increases the challenge. Job is now struck down with *malignant ulcers from the sole of his foot to the top of his head* (Job 2: 7). His wife in exasperation pleads with him: *Do you now mean to persist in your blamelessness? Curse God, and die.* Job replies: *If we take*

happiness from God's hand, must we not take sorrow too? (Job 2: 9-10). The extract for today's first reading is taken from the series of speeches made by Job and three of his friends who had decided to visit him in his distress. The Bible tells us that so disfigured was Job that his friends didn't recognise him, they then sat for seven days and nights in silence with him. After which a dialogue takes place, which is in essence, the lesson of the Book of Job, and lets us listen into our own hearts, hear our own doubts when our lives are beset with problems, whether they are great or small, significant events which trouble our minds and put extreme pressure on our faith: sowing small seeds of doubt. But we are not alone in this, there can be very, very few people who trust and fear the Lord who do not at times question his faithfulness to them as individuals: "Why me?" or similar inner utterances can sometimes flash to the forefront of our

CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

It is Christ who makes us free to serve. Without Christ our lives would be pure drudgery. We would be like slaves, or like workmen with nothing to look forward to but our wages. But the healing power of Christ has transformed our lives: now we are free to make ourselves like him, the slaves of everyone, offering men and women the good news without asking for anything in return.

Congratulations to Jacob Winskonski who lived in Westgate for 3½ years whilst training as a Chef at Thanet College, and prior to his wedding in Poland to Magda who worked next door at Summerlands. Jacob has been awarded 'Employee of the Year' by his employer Ramon Blanc at his hotel near Oxford. I have also learned that he and Magda are to have their first born in June. They both used to worship at St. Peter's.

Very many thanks for the generous tangible and spiritual good wishes I had last Sunday on my Birthday, especially the Cake complete with photograph and the rendering of "Happy Birthday" plus the home-made card by the Childrens' Liturgy Group.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

There is a meeting of the Events Committee tomorrow Monday, 9 February, evening at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in helping on this committee are welcome.

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

From the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (ch 6: v 10-11)

**Grow strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power.
Put God's armour on so as to be able to resist the devil's tactics.**

CONFIRMATION PARENTS

Sunday, 10 May, at 3 pm.

Candidates and parents please see Fr. John after the 5pm Mass THIS TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY.

QUIZ NIGHT

THIS SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

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.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE

There is a retiring collection today for the Catholic Education Service. The CES negotiates, on behalf of all bishops, with Government, and other national bodies on legal, administrative, and religious education matters in order to promote and safeguard Catholic interests in education.

A HOT DATE

Margate, Friday, 20 February
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 at £8 per person. See Phil today.

MASS ATTENDANCES

Fourth Sunday of the Year
Saturday (31 January) 5.30 pm 61
Sunday (1 February) 10 am 105

**ST. PETER'S
100 CLUB**
Today is the last day to return the 100 club application forms for this coming year. We are commencing the First Draw this coming Saturday. Old and new members are welcome and it could be that you will win the big prizes just before Christmas.

FRENCH PILGRIMAGE

Proposed Pilgrimage to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the Cure d'Ars. Monday, 25th - Thursday, 28th May. This Pilgrimage is under PAX TRAVEL, and cost of £399 including flights from and to Stansted. Travel in France on air-conditioned coach. 3 nights accommodation in shared twin bedded rooms with private facilities in good 2-star hotel in Ars-sur-Formans, including 3 continental breakfasts and 3 dinners. Local guide in Ars, daily Mass and Devotions. If you are interested please contact Fr. John as soon as possible.

FROM THE FRONT

minds when what we want to happen doesn't or when life takes a turn for the worse. It can seem like a deliberate act . . . "What have I done wrong?," "Why do I deserve this fate?" Psalm 22 begins: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* Words which later in scripture are uttered from the Cross by Jesus – perhaps echoing his human feelings and the loneliness of pain. Christ did nothing wrong, deserved none of the passion and pain he had to endure, except he had to suffer those trials, those hurts for our sakes, to redeem us, to purify us. In doing so he cured us. He opened up the healing process which enables us to expel the disease of sin. In today's Gospel we have another example of Jesus the Healer, here he takes away the 'sins' of the body, the curse of illness from the people of Capernaum; fifteen hundred people would have been crowded in and around Peter's house, many of them seeking some form of cure. It is through Christ that we can continue to have sin, the works and thoughts of Satan, driven out of our bodies and souls, by believing, even in the most extreme of trying circumstances, that our faith will conquer all and lead us to the joy in the light of God's glory. What happened to poor old Job? There is a lesson for us that in the end if we remain true to our God it will be rewarded: *The Lord restored Job's fortunes . . . gave him double what he had before* (Job 42: 10).

PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 31 January & 1 February

Offertory	Saturday	£140.33
	Sunday	£160.63

Anniversaries this week:

Ethel Booker (1993), Sylvia Carmen (1998), Walter Watts (2001), Kathleen Patterson (2002), Yvonne Foster (2005).

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the repose of the souls of the recently dead: Mary Askham, Carmel (Fred Kealy's sister) who died in Dublin. Also 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.

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.