

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 8th MARCH 2009

Sunday, 8 March, 2009 – Second Sunday of Lent – Purple

5.30 pm (Saturday) CAROLINE BAILY'S INTENTION

10 am inc. Children's Liturgy MARY ASKHAM, R.I.P.

Monday, 9 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

10 am Welfare of ARCHBISHOP KEVIN

Tuesday, 10 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

4.30 pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS

5 pm JIM MADIGAN, R.I.P. The O'Grady Family

Wednesday, 11 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

10 am VERONICA HATCH, R.I.P. Joan Grieve

Thursday, 12 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

9.30 am EXPOSITION

10 am VERONICA HATCH, R.I.P. Colleen

Friday, 13 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

1.15 pm Requiem & Funeral of

ANTONIA RIZZO, R.I.P.

Saturday, 14 March, 2009 – Feria – Purple

10 am ALBINO RIZZO, R.I.P.

10.45 am & 4.45 pm Confession

Sunday, 15 March, 2009 – Third Sunday of Lent – Purple

5.30 pm (Saturday) RON WARE-LANE, R.I.P.

10 am Children's Liturgy MICHAEL BAILY, R.I.P.

3 pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION

Your Prayers are asked for:

For the repose of the souls of the recently dead: Veronica Hatch, Antonia Rizzo, Baby Aaliyah, 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.

Anniversaries this week:

James Finn (1995), Ernest Shilling (1999), Monica Snowdon (2000), Douglas Hatch (2000), Ron Ware-Lane (2005).

EASTER CARDS

There is a selection in the Repository from 30p. Also there are First Communion and Confirmation gifts – the shop is open EVERY day.

PLEASE RETURN CENSUS FORMS BY NEXT WEEKEND – blank forms in porch

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

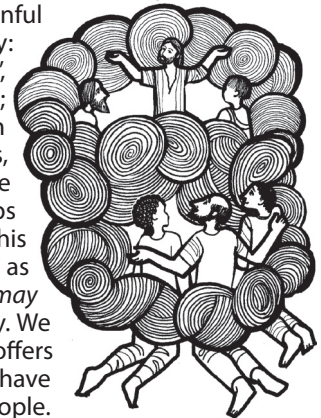
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www.stpeterswestgate.co.uk

Second Sunday of Lent – 8th March, 2009

Back in December we had the Feast of the Holy Family when the first reading was taken from part of the Genesis story which related to the birth of Issac. Today's opening reading recounts the trial the Lord placed on Abraham by commanding him to offer his favoured son, Issac, as a sacrifice. In the newsletter of that weekend we covered much of the text of the Genesis words we shall hear today. It is interesting to see the parallels which this Old Testament extract brings to the Lenten season. We have the benefit of being hindsight spectators, we can sit in church and listen to the unfolding stories from both parts of Holy Scripture; better still, perhaps, we can take time and reread them in the comfort of our own homes and muse at the inner meaning and significance which the Word of God has for us. This story of an 'almost' sacrifice can be seen in juxtaposition to the actual sacrifice which takes place on another mountain, or rather a hill, Golgotha. Then we had the Lord reprieving Abraham's son; whereas, in the events which we commemorate in five weeks time God remains strangely silent on that day. Or does he? We have to accept, as Christ himself did, that through his birth – his first coming into this sinful world – destiny (as the dictionary describes the word destiny: 'events which will necessarily happen to a person in the future; the key word being necessarily) will lead to the sacrifice of Jesus; a sacrifice for us, for humankind, to wash away its sins and open up a new covenant with the world: the covenant of forgiveness, death and resurrection. Elements which all took place and we will again recall over the Easter period. These elements perhaps begin with water, for while the Washing of the Feet by Jesus of his Disciples is seen and referred to in John's Gospel (ch 13 v 13-15) as a lesson in humility: "I have given you an example so that you may copy"; it is also again a use of water to cleanse, as in wash away. We also have the forgiveness of Christ as he hangs on the Cross and offers this to his companion in death, the 'good thief', and then we have resurrection, resurrection which makes us truly an "Easter" people.

But we are ahead of the story, the Lenten story. Already Jesus had prophesied his death, he had told his disciples of the rejection by the elders, priests and scribes, told them he would die and that he would rise again – as would be expected Peter, having just professed his faith in Jesus, boldly counters the Lord's prophesy of death with an assertion that he won't let it happen; to which Christ rebukes Peter with the put down: "Get behind me, Satan!" (Mark 9: 33). As if to emphasis his divine state Jesus takes the irrepressible Peter and two other Apostles, James and John, up a mountain: where they could be alone by themselves. Several times in the life of Jesus we hear of him taking time alone or with just a select couple of people, times when he talks and interacts with God his Father, our Father too. There is nothing in the life of Christ and his ministry which can not be taken as a lesson to



CONTINUED INSIDE

Fr. John Writes:-

Abraham was prepared to give God his only son, Isaac, in sacrifice. God would do no less, He gave us the gift of His only Son, Jesus, in sacrifice. "This is my Son, the Beloved," He say to us "Listen to him".

Retirement of Canon Bill Clements

After months of prolonged illness with his knees, he has finally decided to retire from active parish ministry in Birchington, and has moved to Coloma Court, Layhams Road, West Wickham. We wish him well, and hope that he will serve the Lord in a fruitful way, but relieved from the demands of the parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS TUESDAY THIS WEEK

Stations of the Cross will take place before the 5 pm Mass this Tuesday, 10 March, there will not be Exposition. Also there is Stations of the Cross, with Benediction on Sunday, 15 March (3rd Lent) and additionally on Palm Sunday (5 April) at 3 pm.

LENT FAST DAY

Last Friday, was CAFOD'S Lent Fast Day. In today's newsletter you will find an envelope in which you can make your contribution to help in the worldwide work of CAFOD. If you haven't got enough money on you today, paper stuff, then fill the envelope next week and return it next Sunday.

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

There will be two Lent Deanery Penitential Service in Thanet:

- (1) St. Peter's, Westgate
Sunday, 29 March at 3 pm
- (2) Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs
on Thursday, 2 April at 7 pm

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

From the letter of St. Paul to Titus (ch 2: v 11)

You see God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race.

BIG THANK YOU

Ed-Aid, the Cliftonville based charity for educational aid to The Gambia have thanked Fr. John and the parishioners of St. Peter's for the offerings of December's Carol Concert which raised £385 and the Crib Offerings which, in addition to the numerous Rosaries, an extra £70 was given to the charity. Eileen Rolfe ends her letter to Fr. John with: "Best wishes and God bless you and all your generous parishioners".

ANTONIA RIZZO'S FUNERAL

Mrs. Rizzo's, Funeral arrangements are: Reception of the coffin into the church this Thursday, 12 March, at 4 30 pm. The Funeral will be at 1.15pm on Friday, 13 March. May she rest in peace.

WORRIED ABOUT VOCATIONS?

Do something about it then! We are looking for a representative(s) to attend an event on 28 March (10 am to 3 pm) in Balham, South London to hear about a new initiative to encourage vocations. See Fr. John or call him this week.

ST. PETER'S 100 CLUB

The March draw takes place next, Saturday, after the 5.30 pm Mass. Eventually, we seem to have 100 members.

MASS ATTENDANCES

1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday (28 February)	5.30 pm	63
Sunday (1 March)	10 am	96

PARISH INCOME

Weekend of 28 February & 1 March		
Offertory	Saturday	£138.55
	Sunday	£235.04
Thanet Homeless collections		£110.00

KENT CHURCHES

Last year's Sponsored Ride & Walk, in which the Whitaker family took part, raised the sum of £147,171 across the county.

EXTRA MASS ON MONDAY

There will be an extra Mass this week on Monday, 9 March, at 10 am. It is being said for the welfare of our Archbishop Kevin.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

This Monday, 9 March

The next committee meeting is on Monday, 9 March at 7.30 pm in the Hall. There is a need for extra members of the Events Committee to assist in organising the day, do come along, everyone is welcome to join in. Advanced notice of the Summer Fete. This year it will be held in the Church's grounds. The date of the Fete will be Saturday, 27 June – the eve of the Feast of the Saints Peter and Paul.

FROM THE FRONT

us all. So, perhaps, we too should take time out when we can interact with God our Father, time when we put aside worldly matters and to speak with our hearts and listen with them as well, time alone or with our close friends and family, when the world-wide Church we belong to becomes Little Church, an intimate communion. Back to the mountain, and that small gathering. It is not hard to imagine that having climbed the height that all four men would have been dusty and maybe unkempt; this is, after all, the semi-arid middle east of first century Palestine, there would have been no neatly paved way or chair lifts for them to take. Matthew in his Gospel says: *His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light*, Luke says: *his clothing became as brilliant as lightning*, and as we hear today from Mark: *his clothes became dazzlingly white*. The transfiguration of Christ was a manifestation of his Godliness, just as when God came to Moses as fire and Elijah as the wind so God appears again but now he has human form, the form of Jesus – momentarily a reborn Jesus, born and bathed in light – more than that – for he is the light, the light of the world, the light revealed in scripture. Imagine the astonishment of those three selected companions. This bright, dazzling image of their master – so white his clothes, seemingly as pure as pure can be – so how could this be anyone but the Promised One, the Messiah? As if to emphasise the magnitude of their experience Moses and Elijah both appear alongside Jesus – make no mistake this says Jesus isn't a prophet, isn't a messenger of the Lord, he is the real thing, the foretold one of the Scrolls. If we think for a moment of times when we have seen 'apparitions' of change – transfigurations if you like – and how they make us feel. Take the first sight of a new born baby, just after it has been washed and dressed in its baby robes, or the sight of a wife-to-be, a daughter, granddaughter, as they walk down the aisle in their flowing white bridal dress – how they look transformed, special, glowing and radiant; even something as mundane as a new penny in among a handful of spent and used coins how it seems to gleam and glow against the rather dull others – there may possibly be a thought that this shining new coin is a lucky omen. No doubt Peter had experienced that 'wow' factor as he saw the majesty of God revealed. Impulsively he wanted to build three tents or altars to commemorate the occasion and possibly offer sacrifices to all three. Suddenly a cloud covered them, as had happened to Moses when the Lord had spoken to him; this had the effect of both shutting Peter up and, quite literally, putting the fear of God into them. This was God not remaining silent, God speaking the Truth of the being of Jesus Christ. It wasn't about worship but about revelation – the revealing by God that Jesus was the Chosen One: *This is my Son, the Beloved, Listen to him*. Dare we not!

**TEA & COFFEE IN HALL
AFTER 10 am MASS**

Come along it's ONLY 20p a drink!

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.