

St Simon Stock Catholic Church

Brookfield Road, South Ashford, Kent TN23 4EU

Tel: 01233 622399

Parish Priest: Fr John Boyle

Saint Simon of England RC Primary School,
Noakes Meadow, Ashford, TN23 2RB. Tel: 01233 623199
Head teacher: Mrs Elizabeth Willis

7th MARCH 2010

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C



MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 7th

Third Sunday of Lent (C)

10.00am Mass (John Kelly RIP)

5.15pm Stations of the Cross

6.00pm Mass (For the people of the parish)

Monday 8th

No Mass

Tuesday 9th

6.45pm Mass (Maria Panza RIP)

Wednesday 10th

6.45pm Mass (Latin, 1962 Missal) (Donor's intentions)

Thursday 11th

9.30am Mass (Holy Souls)

Friday 12th

9.30am Mass (François Henri Bergmans RIP)

8.00pm Stations of the Cross at Christchurch, Beaver Road

Saturday 13th

9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10.00am Mass (Nellie Reilly RIP)

Sunday 14th

Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

10.00am Mass (Jean Borucki RIP)

12.00noon Mass (Latin, 1962 Missal)

5.15pm Stations of the Cross

6.00pm Mass (For the people of the parish)

CONFESSION TIMES

Weekdays: before or after Mass upon request.
Saturday: 10.30am; Sundays: ½ hour before Mass

CHURCH CLEANING

12th Jenny, 19th Kilda, 26th Agnes, April 2nd Sue, 9th Tara

COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY

Offertory: £458.21, (Gift Aid: £195.12, loose plate: £263.09) + £96 approx. by standing order. Second collection: **Pontifical Council 'Cor Unum':** £232.04. *Thank you very much.* Second collection today and next Sunday: **Parish Maintenance and Development.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

Sundays at 5.15pm and 8pm on Fridays with the Confirmation group. Do make an effort to participate in this devotion in Lent.

ECUMENICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

With Father Anthony Mary Hirst, and members of his congregation at Christchurch, Beaver Road at **8pm next Friday** Do take this opportunity of joining with our neighbouring Christian brethren to contemplate together the sorrowful journey of Our Lord to Calvary in this holy season of Lent. (Confirmation group to meet as usual – walking together to Christchurch.)

WAY OF THE CROSS WITH THE CURÉ OF ARS

Copies of this booklet to help you make the Stations of the Cross are available from the repository price £4.25.

DIVINE MERCY HOUSE PRAYER GROUP TOMORROW

All are welcome to join the group for prayer and social tomorrow at 16 Gravelly Field, Singleton. Arrivals from 10.00am, finish approx. 11.30am. Contact Teresa Davies 01233 625799.

ATTENTION ALL SERVERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The next Altar Servers Afternoon takes place **2pm to 8pm Saturday 20th March** at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Addiscombe. Usual combination of games, talk, confessions, Mass etc. All youngsters aged 10 and above are invited. Please pick up a leaflet and a health form from the sacristy.

TODAY'S MASS TEXTS

Entrance Antiphon:

Ps24:15-16

My eyes are ever fixed on the Lord, for he releases my feet from the snare. O look at me and be merciful, for I am wretched and alone.

First Reading:

Exodus 3:1-8.13-15

I Am has sent me to you.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 102

R: The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R)

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R)

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R)

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 10.1-6.10-12

The life of the people under Moses in the desert was written down to be a lesson for us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Gospel:

Luke 13:1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

*During Lent we shall use the Apostles' Creed
(p.9 in The Simple Prayer Book)*

Preface of the Third Sunday of Lent, Eucharistic Prayer 1

Communion Antiphon:

Matthew 17:5

The sparrow even finds a home, the swallow finds a nest wherein to place her young, near to your altars, Lord of hosts, my King, my God! How happy they who dwell in your house! For ever they are praising you.

THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION

Jean and Walter Borucki RIP



SANCTUARY LAMP OFFERINGS

If you would like the sanctuary lamp by the tabernacle to burn in memory of any particular person or for any particular intention, please hand a note of the intention with an offering (suggested £5) in an envelope to the parish office or place it in the offertory basket.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray this week for all those who are sick and need our prayers. Names of those who need our prayers can be placed in the box in the church foyer.

DAY RETREATS AT AYLESFORD PRIORY

See poster no notice board for details of a series of day retreats being held at Aylesford Priory during March.

FR. JOHN'S DESKTOP

(continuing the Pope's speech to the bishops of England & Wales...)



"Much attention has rightly been given to (Cardinal John Henry) Newman's scholarship and to his extensive writings, but it is important to remember that he saw himself first and foremost as a priest. In this Annus Sacerdotalis, (year of priests) I urge you to hold up to your priests his example of dedication to prayer, pastoral sensitivity towards the needs of his flock, and passion for preaching the Gospel. You yourselves should set a similar example. Be close to your priests, and rekindle their sense of the enormous privilege and joy of standing among the people of God as alter Christus (another Christ). In Newman's words, "Christ's priests have no priesthood but His ... what they do, He does; when they baptize, He is baptizing; when they bless, He is blessing" (Parochial and Plain Sermons, VI 242). Indeed, since the priest plays an irreplaceable role in the life of the Church, spare no effort in encouraging priestly vocations and emphasizing to the faithful the true meaning and necessity of the priesthood. Encourage the lay faithful to express their appreciation of the priests who serve them, and to recognize the difficulties they sometimes face on account of their declining numbers and increasing pressures. The support and understanding of the faithful is particularly necessary when parishes have to be merged or Mass times adjusted. Help them to avoid any temptation to view the clergy as mere functionaries but rather to rejoice in the gift of priestly ministry, a gift that can never be taken for granted."

As I have mentioned elsewhere, the Year of Priests has resulted in a great variety of initiatives by lay people to express support of their priests through prayer and other means. I am personally very aware of the affection in which parishioners generally hold their priests. The Year has also resulted in an increase in the numbers of young men responding to God's call to service, and in a renewal in many priests of their awareness of who they are and who they represent by means of their priestly ordination. Keep up your prayers for us priests, and don't ever be afraid to offer your kindly suggestions and even fraternal corrections when you think we need them. *Fr. John*



REGULAR EVENTS – COME ALONG! DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

after the 9.30am Mass on Tuesdays. Prayers of intercession for various needs and silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament till 10.30am. Not this week.

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS 7.30PM
Studying the Book of Apocalypse/Revelation.
Newcomers always welcome.

CHOIR PRACTICE THURSDAYS 7.30PM
Newcomers always welcome

YEAR OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Come and pray the Rosary for our priests 20 minutes before the weekday morning Masses. This week you are asked to pray for: Sun 28th Fr. Francis Moran, Mon 8th Mar Canon John Naughton, Tues 9th Fr. Philip Nelson, Weds 10th Fr. Roger Nesbitt, Thurs 11th Fr. Eric Nimmo; Fri 12th Fr. James Nolan, Sat 13th Fr. Sunith Nonis, Sun 14th Fr. Peter Norris. Thank you.

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

If you have any suitable religious books/videos for a lending library to enable us to share an inspirational piece of writing or film with each other please see Catarina Beresford.

TWO VOCATIONS 'EVENTS'

"Fishers of Men", the annual vocations discernment retreat for young men thinking of priesthood, at **St John's Seminary, Wonersh, 5th – 7th March.**

National "Discovering Priesthood" day at **Ealing Abbey, London, Saturday 13th March 10am to 4pm** with presentations on diocesan priesthood as well as the priestly charisms of the Benedictines, the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and the Community of St John. Overnight accommodation available for those who wish (tel. 020 8862 2160).

These events are principally for young men aged 16/17 and upwards who might be considering the question of vocation to priesthood. See posters on the notice board.

CONGRATULATIONS ON FIRST CONFESSIONS

Congratulations to the children who made their first Confessions yesterday, and to their parents who supported them by their example in also going to Confession. All three priests were kept busy for a whole hour! Parents: you are the first teachers of your children and the best form of teaching is example. May you all experience frequently the joy of forgiveness in this most wonderful Sacrament.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL 15th MARCH 7.30PM

Please let Thereza Baker in the parish office know if there is anything you think needs to be put on the agenda, tel: 622399 (and leave a message) or email: tbaker@stsimon.org.uk

PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL MAIDSTONE FRIDAY 12TH MARCH

Vigil by The Helpers of God's Precious Infants led by Fr. Tim Finigan. If you wish to join, meet at St. Francis' Church, Week Street, Maidstone for 12.30pm Mass followed by a prayerful and peaceful procession to the Marie Stopes abortion facility in Brewer Street ending at 2.15pm. Refreshments afterwards at St. Francis Parish Centre. Full details on notice board. If you cannot join the vigil, would you consider praying before the Blessed Sacrament while the vigil is taking place? If a few people commit to this, the Blessed Sacrament could be exposed on the altar.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO KRAKOW, POLAND

There is the possibility of a trip to Krakow, departing Monday 31st May returning Saturday 5th June. Price inclusive of bed and breakfast (single room) at the Divine Mercy shrine on the outskirts of Krakow, day trips to Krakow city centre, Wadowice (Pope John Paul II's birth place), Kalwaria (where he used to go for retreats), Auschwitz, Wieliczka salt mines, Czestochowa, return flight, transport to and from airport is estimated to be in the region of £375 based on a group size of 25, or £325 if you share a room. To express your interest without obligation at this stage, sign up on the noticeboard. I would like to have some idea of how many people are interested to decide on things such as transport to the various places we might be visiting. *Fr. John*

CHARITIES/APPEALS CO-ORDINATOR

The parish receives many requests for help from good and worthy causes. Of course we cannot support them all. As a parish you have always responded generously to appeals. As parish priest it is sometimes difficult for me to decide which ones should be proposed to parishioners for support. Examples of requests that have come in recently: **Missio (APF)** requesting support/sponsorship for seminary students and religious order novices in mission territories; **International Refugee Trust** for the Comboni Missionary Sisters in Sudan; **Mary's Meals** for funds to feed starving children around the world; and others. If you would like to be a co-ordinator to assist in discerning which ones to support in any given year, please let me know. It would be good for the co-ordinator to serve on the parish council. *Fr. John*

ST. JOSEPH'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY ANNUAL NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

Being held at St. Joseph's Church Maidenhead from 10th – 18th March. A small number of booklets are available from the repository to enable those interested to join in the Novena from home and included in the booklet is a petition slip to enable you to send your petition prior to the commencement of the Novena so that it may be placed at the foot of the altar during the week.