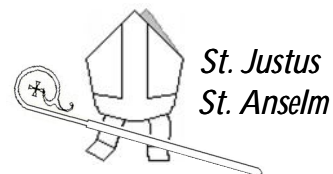


## THIS WEEK'S DIARY



*St. Justus*  
*St. Anselm*

Paddock Wood and Pembury  
Roman Catholic Church

Sunday 7 March 2010  
Third Sunday of Lent  
Year C, Weekday 2

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday 7 March</b> <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>   |                   |
| <i>Saturday: 6pm: Peter Whitehouse R.I.P.</i>       | <i>St. Justus</i> |
| 9am: Philip Weston R.I.P.                           | St. Justus        |
| 10.30am: People of the Parish                       | St. Anselm        |
| <b>Monday 8 March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>             |                   |
| <i>Today's Priest: Canon John Naughton</i>          |                   |
| 10am: Michael Boyle R.I.P.                          | St. Justus        |
| <b>Tuesday 9 March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>            |                   |
| <i>Today's Priest: Fr. Phillip Nelson</i>           |                   |
| 7am: Michael Boyle R.I.P.                           | St. Justus        |
| <b>Wednesday 10 March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>         |                   |
| <i>Today's Priest: Fr. Roger Nesbitt</i>            |                   |
| 6.30pm: Stations of the Cross                       | St. Anselm        |
| 7pm: Josephine Kelly                                | St. Anselm        |
| <b>Thursday 11 March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>          |                   |
| <i>Today's Priest: Fr. Eric Nimmo</i>               |                   |
| 7.30pm: At the Norris' Household                    |                   |
| <b>Friday 12 March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>            |                   |
| <i>Today's Priest: Fr. James Nolan</i>              |                   |
| 10am:   | St. Justus        |
| 7.30pm: Stations of the Cross                       | St. Justus        |
| <b>Saturday 13 March</b>                            |                   |
| <i>Today's Priest: Fr. Sunith Nonis</i>             |                   |
| 6pm:  | St. Justus        |
| <b>Sunday 14 March</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> |                   |
| <i>Today's Priest: Fr. Peter Norris</i>             |                   |
| 9am: People of the Parish                           | St. Justus        |
| 10.30am: Vi & Jack Bridgeman R.I.P.                 | St. Anselm        |

**Parish Priest:** Father Liam Gallagher.

11 Alliance Way, Paddock Wood, TN12 6TY. (01892) 833699  
lgallagher121@btinternet.com  
www.stjustusandanselm.org.uk

If you need to contact a Catholic Priest and Fr. Liam is not available,  
then please call St Augustine's, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 522525

### WHAT I HAVE DONE – AND IN WHAT I HAVE FAILED TO DO

The fig tree that we hear about in today's Gospel is in a very privileged place – a vineyard. In a part of the world where barren lands dominated an area and soil was scarce, much was expected of anything that was planted to grow and bear fruit. Little patience is shown to anything that just wastes good soil. It's probably not hard to realise then that if we deny the opportunity we receive to bear fruits of goodness in the world then we simply become a waste of space – if not infecting other people with our sinfulness. Yet this is not a message of hopelessness but a reminder of the opening invitation that Jesus made to us all – 'Repent, for the kingdom of God is close at hand.' It's an invitation that is never too late to respond to. This call to a change of heart is made to sinners and good people alike. You may ask 'why does a good person need to change their lives?'

So often I hear people say that they don't feel the need to attend the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) because they haven't done anything wrong or can't think of anything they have done wrong – and maybe when in confession they just say something general that they always say for the sake of saying something. This sacrament is not about making people say they are bad and that they have all done something terrible – but so often we forget that there is so much more we could have done and we didn't; we had an opportunity to make even a very small difference with a helping hand or kind word but we stepped aside. It is worth taking note of the 'I Confess' that we say at the beginning of Mass, especially the words quoted above. Repentance is a very disturbing word and we don't want to be disturbed. We want a quiet and uninterrupted life, which will result in selfishness and self-centredness. A desire for such a life is shutting Jesus out of our hearts and turning down the invitation to repent. Yet if we realise the privilege we have in knowing about the rich abundant life in store for us by reaching our roots in to the springs of Jesus' Word – fruit blooms aplenty from us.

**Entrance Antiphon:** My eyes are 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.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is compassion and love.

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

**Communion Antiphon:** 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.

**Sung Gospel Acclamation during Lent:**

Praise the Lord my soul, and praise His holy name.

Praise the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.

## NOTICES

### Parish General Meeting – 8 March

Please make a note in your diary about the Parish Meeting which will be held on Monday 8 March 8pm at St Justus Church.

### Mass on Thursday

This Thursday evening we will be having another House Mass. This week it is being hosted by Chris and Penny Norris at their home, Old Coach House, Barn Hill, Hunton, Maidstone, ME 15 0QT at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along, especially those in the local area; maps are available after Mass. We are very grateful for their hospitality.

Thank you also to Valerie and Bernard Smith for hosting it last week.

### First Communion Classes

First Communion classes have now begun and this weekend the children will be presented with their First Communion books.

### Parish Ladies Meeting

The Ladies Meeting will take place at the Hoppers Hospital, Five Oak Green on Thursday 11 March. If you need a lift, please let Vera know. We will meet in the Church car park at 2.15pm.

### Parish Quiz Night

Preparations are well under way for our Parish Quiz Night on Saturday 20 March, 8pm at St. Anselm's Hall, with quizmaster Fr. Liam Gallagher! The evening will be fundraising for our Lourdes Fund. The cost is £3 per person, and teams are of up to eight people, pay on the night. If you don't have a team, don't worry, just come along and you can join a team. Get your thinking caps on, and we look forward to seeing you there!

### Finance Newsletter

The finance newsletter for 2009 is now available at the back of the church or from our website. We will hear about the finances at our Parish Meeting.

### St. Patrick's Night of Blarney at St. Gregory's

On Saturday 20 March, 7.30pm there will be an evening full of food, fun and frolics with World Challengers. There will be a traditional Irish 2-course supper and a licensed bar. Tickets are £8.50 per person. To book individually or as a group, contact Clare Chew on 825593 or Elaine Gill on 689712.

### Mass to Celebrate Marriage

If you are celebrating a special wedding anniversary Mass this year then you will be especially invited to the Anniversary Mass at St. George's Cathedral, Saturday 12 June, 3pm. Please give your names and your anniversary

to  
Fr. Liam.

### Are you willing to serve as a School Admission Appeal Panel Member?

On behalf of the governing bodies of Catholic Schools in the Diocese, the Diocesan Commission for Schools & Colleges is currently seeking volunteers to sit on Appeals Panels. School Admission Appeal Panels hear appeals from parent who have not been offered places for their children at their preferred school. Training will be provided during March and April. Please contact the Commission for an application form and further information as soon as possible either by phone on 01689 829331 or email [office@rcsouthwark.org.uk](mailto:office@rcsouthwark.org.uk). Completed application forms should be returned by 8 March.

### Beginning Experience

There will be a weekend away for a lifetime of change for all those who have found themselves single again on 26-28 March at The Friars, Aylesford. For information, please contact Ruth on 0208 679 7157.

**Fr Liam will be away** next weekend. On Saturday he is on a Marriage Preparation Course. We welcome Fr. Leo Mooney from Southborough who will celebrate 6pm Mass with us.

On Sunday, Fr. Liam will be away for a family celebration and we welcome Fr. Marcus Holden from Tunbridge Wells who will celebrate Mass with us.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Nigel Brown and Jessica Tricker.

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### Collections for 28 February 2010

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection:** £420.00

**CAFOD Family Fast Day:** £305.62

**Second Collection:** *This Week:* Property Maintenance Fund  
*Next Week:* The Bridge Trust