

NEWSLETTER

for Catholics in the Tendring Peninsula
from Father Michael Stokes, Parish Priest.

The Fifth Sunday in the Year of Luke

7th February 2010

Dear Parishioners,

The readings today are Good News from so many points of view. Isaiah sees the Lord and is overwhelmed by this; but, having confessed his sins, he is healed and commissioned for a great task. God encounters us in our human situations and leads us on further.

Paul is grateful that God's grace has borne abundant fruit in his missionary activity. He has worked hard and been very zealous all the time for the kingdom of God.

The Gospel is the story of three great catches and not just the great catch of fish. The first one is the huge crowd that Jesus has gathered because he speaks with authority. People come from all around to hear him and be encouraged and empowered to follow him. But a crowd can be impersonal – just a mass of people, a mob even.

After the catch of fish, then Jesus makes his third catch – Simon and James and John. Once aware that Jesus accepts them as they are and allows for their weakness, they leave everything and follow him. These three catches show us that the Lord Jesus blesses us and brings to harvest so many things we worry about and are anxious about.

Simon's boat just happened to be lying there. It could have been someone else's. But it was not. Providence is always at work in our lives. Tiny things drop into our hands. Every day brings small opportunities and God makes his overtures to us. If we think of the many times someone asked us to do a favour for them. Often we imagine we are being used. And maybe we are. But, as you know, God can work through people like that as well. Maybe it is really Jesus who is asking for that favour from us. Maybe he needs us to help him to preach to the people of Dovercourt, Frinton or our villages. Hopefully, we will say 'Yes' and help to bring about a rich and plentiful harvest.

Catholic Parish of Harwich and Dovercourt

Member of Churches Together in the Harwich Peninsula

Church of Our Lady Queen of Heaven

129 Fronks Road, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex. CO12 4EF. Tel: 01255 503383

E-Mail: HYPERLINK "mailto:catholicchurchharwich@talktalk.net" catholicchurchharwich@talktalk.net

Website : HYPERLINK "http://www.harwichcatholics.net" www.harwichcatholics.net

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, The Drive, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex, CO12 3SU. Tel: 01255 503493.

Parish Office Hours : Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays 10am – 12 noon

Times of Services: Monday to Friday 9am Mass or Service of Prayer

Sunday Mass 10.45am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: first and third Saturdays 9.30am.

Service Times and Mass Intentions:

Mon	8	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tues	9	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Wed	10	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thurs	11	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri	12	9.00 am	Mass: Richard Lee (Nea)
Sun	14	10.45 am	Mass: Edward Rowan RIP

Facts and Figures : 152 people gathered for Mass last Sunday and gave £299.77 to the collection at Mass. Bank Standing orders amounted to £149. The retiring collection for the Catholic Education Fund raised £118.07. Thank you for your offerings.

To launch the New Year and New Decade we are having a **8 Prize Big Raffle**. Tickets will cost £1 each and the prizes are bottle of Booth's High and Dry Gin, litre of Grant's Scotch Whisky, litre of Napoleon Special Brandy, Tea for One Set, Car Kettle, Candle with decorative holder, Beautilicious set and a Box of Chocolates.

The **Care Group** will meet in the church hall on Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. If you feel you could spare a couple of hours a month visiting those in the parish who are sick or less mobile please contact John Dobner on 880509.

Rotas for the period 17th Feb to 25th April are being prepared for the Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion. Could you please let Jane Dunbar know if there are any dates you will not be available.

This week's news for both Parishes

In the **Annual cycle of Prayer** we are asked to pray during **Ordinary Time (Winter)** for Peace on earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and those who care for them; Students and Teachers; The Unemployed
The **Holy Father's Mission Intentions for February** are that the Church, missionary by its very nature, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and proclaim his gospel to all peoples.

Scriptures for next weekend the Sixth Sunday of the Year in the Year of Luke:

Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20; Luke 6:17,20-26.

Father Michael's Public Diary Friday 12 February – Sunday 14 February

Fri	12 Feb	9.00 am	Mass in Dovercourt
		7.00 pm	Journey in Faith, Frinton Presbytery
Sat	13 Feb	9.30 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation, Frinton
		6.00 pm	Mass for Sunday in Frinton
Sun	14 Feb	8.30 am	Sunday Mass in Frinton
		10.45 am	Sunday Mass with Baptisms in Dovercourt

The Essex Recusant Society will have an outing to the church of St Patrick, Soho Square on Saturday 20th February. This will be an opportunity to see the church before it closes for a year at the end of February for restoration work to take place. We will be shown vestments and other items of interest not usually on show to the public. We will meet inside the church at 2pm. If you wish to attend or to find out about joining the Society, please contact Miss Isobel Parks on 01268 289678.

The **Essex Recusant Society** is helping to publicise an evening of music at Ingatestone Hall on Saturday 6th March 2010, entitled "Dangerous Candlelight: The forbidden Music – A Gathering of Recusants". The event is described as an evening of sacred motets and music for the Mass, such as may have been experienced by 16th and 17th century recusants. Numbers are strictly limited and tickets must be pre-ordered. Tickets cost £12.50 and can be purchased from Jane Farrell, 5 Oaten Hill, Canterbury, CT1 3HP. Tel: 01227 766301. Email: janefarrell@tiscali.co.uk

If you would like to sponsor the Sanctuary Lamp for a week (£2.50) please leave a written note at the presbytery.

Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the **Diocesan Lourdes Sick and Helpers Pilgrimage Fund.**

Feasts and Saints this week:

Wed 10 S Scholastica, virgin

Thur 11 Diocesan Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Principal Patroness of the Diocese
The Brentwood Diocesan Trust Charity No 234092

Catholic Parish of Frinton and Walton

Member of Churches Together in Walton-on-the-Naze

Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Francis

114 Connaught Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, CO13 9AD. Tel: 01255 674475

E-Mail: HYPERLINK "mailto:frinton@dioceseofbrentwood.org" frinton@dioceseofbrentwood.org

St. Philomena's Independent Catholic Primary School, Hadleigh Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, CO13 9HQ. Tel: 01255 674492.

Times of Services: Monday to Friday 9am Mass or Service of Prayer

Sunday Mass : Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: second and fourth Saturdays 9.30am.

Service Times and Mass Intentions:

Mon	8	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
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Thurs	11	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri	12	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Sat	13	6.00 pm	Mass: Int Paul Turner (sick)
Sun	14	8.30 am	Mass: All Parishioners

Facts and Figures : 158 people gathered for Mass last Sunday and gave £387.68 to the collection at Mass. Bank Standing orders amounted to £127.30. The retiring collection for the Catholic education Fund raised £111.10. Donations in the CAFOD Soup Plate amounted to £15.50. Thank you for your offerings.

Please put your name on the list in Church if you want to reserve a place on the coach to Brentwood for Fr David's Funeral. The Funeral Mass is being celebrated at 12 noon in

Brentwood Cathedral on Friday 26th February.

The new Rotas for 17 Feb to 29/30 May will be published shortly. Please let Almeda (673871) or email HYPERLINK "mailto:agyves@btinternet.com" agyves@btinternet.com if you are likely to be unavailable at any time during this period.

It is my firm belief that people today are hungry. They may not know what they are hungry for, but they are hungry: hungry for truth about life as a whole, and hungry for truth about their own lives and the meaning of them. They want to be told things that will give them strength, comfort and a sense of direction. They need to know what will make life worth living.

To Be A Pilgrim, by Cardinal basil Hume O.S.B.