My Dear Friends

On this Sunday we hear of the call of St Peter to be a fisher of men. His initial reaction to Jesus is one of repentance: ‘Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man’. This week on Ash Wednesday, the Church begins the journey of Lent, a journey of repentance and listening more attentively to the call of Jesus. It is good to plan ahead and decide this weekend how we will make the journey of Lent holy, through works of charity, penance and prayer. Let us begin Lent well by coming to Mass on Ash Wednesday and receiving the ashes as a mark of our wish to take Lent seriously. Masses on Ash Wednesday are 7:30am, 9:15am (when we will be joined by the Juniors of St Thomas More’s School), 12:15pm and 7:30pm. There will be 10am Mass at Mersea and the little ones will receive the ashes at the school in the afternoon.

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This Friday and every Friday in Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 12 noon; followed by soup and a roll in the Crypt and 7:30pm in the evening, when we alternate with our neighbours at St James the Great. This Friday evening, Stations will be at St James the Less.

May God bless our Lenten journey towards Easter

Fr Tony McKenty
LENT DAY OF REFLECTION: Saturday 23rd March in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Further details to follow.

FILIPINO MASS: There will be a Filipino Mass on Sunday 3rd March 5pm at Priory St.

FILIPINO PILGRIMAGE: There will be a Filipino Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Sunday 24th March. Please see poster in porch for full details or contact Amy / Armando on 01206 854 921.

LONG LOST RING FOUND AT ST THOMAS MORE’S: Last week the year 6 children were digging in the school’s Wildlife Area and they found a silver ring. It looks like it has been there for many years possibly from 10 years ago when the Wildlife Area was established or maybe before! Did you help years ago and lose a ring? Contact the school office on 01206 865 722 for more details.

CALLING DOWNTON ABBEY FANS: The SVP have secured an option on tickets for a visit to Highclere Castle on Sunday 18th August. Price £41 which includes coach travel with an opportunity to explore the House and Gardens. £10 deposit by 4th February please. To book phone Judy on 0797040 8707 or see an SVP member.

PARISH FOOTBALL TEAM: Danny Ferdinand reporting: “The Parish Football team played their final league match of the season and we achieved our first point of the campaign with a 1-1 draw against Bethel CF. The cup competition begins at the end of the month and we can now proceed with confidence!!”

COLCHESTER STREET PASTORS: There will be an information / welcome evening at 8pm on Friday 22nd February at St Botolph’s Church for persons over the age of 18, who are interested in joining a training course for becoming a Street Pastor in Colchester. This is a valuable and rewarding interdenominational activity.

CANONESIS OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE: As part of their 370th anniversary celebration – the Canonesses are holding a celebration of their history – past and present at Castle Methodist Church, Maidenburgh Street on 1-2nd March. Some of the community will be present throughout the day. More details from posters in porch or www.canonesses.co.uk

ST PATRICK’S NIGHT: Saturday March 16th. Join us for live singing, dancing, music and good food. More information to follow.

AN EVENING OF SACRED MUSIC: In aid of parish funds at Colchester Castle on Saturday 9th March at 7:30pm. The Writtle Singers and the Wivenhoe based Cavendish Consort will sing a range of music from the 16th century, Baroque and the present day from composers including Tallis & Byrd. There will also be a short talk on the history of the castle from historian Philip Wise. Tickets are £15.00 and can be purchased after Mass on a Sunday, the Mass that may be a little tight is the 6:15pm on Saturday. We may need to leave home a little earlier for that Mass, so shall we leave the Mass at that time rather than making it later? Fr Tony.

CHURCH CLEANERS: Thursday 14th February – Team 2.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR [C]
(10th February 2013)

Saturday February 9th
6:15 pm Derek Harvey RIP
Sunday February 10th
8:00 am Ints: Josephine & Ray Carty
10:30 am Ints: Colchester Catenians & Families
2:00 pm POLISH MASS
5:00 pm HOLY HOUR
6:30 pm Ints: Julie & Richard
West Mersea
8:30 am Tim Coffrey
9:15 am Parishioners
Monkwick
10:15 am Celestine Tighe RIP

Monday 11th
Ours Lady of Lourdes
Church
7:30 am Jack Kennedy RIP
Church
9:15 am Tony Southon RIP
Church
9:15 am Marita Kromane RIP
Church
9:15 am Holy Souls RIP

Wednesday 13th
ASH WEDNESDAY
Church
7:30 am Ints: Maura & Frank
Church
9:15 am Private Intention
Church
12:15 pm Mrs M Power RIP
Church
7:30 pm Martin Wade RIP
West Mersea
10:00 am SS Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bp
Church
9:15 am Thomas Connell RIP
Feria
9:15 am Mrs B Foley RIP
Church
9:15 am Madge Scappaticci RIP

Saturday 16th
Feria
9:15 am Ints: Maureen & Peter Ahern
Church
7:00 pm “Beetle Drive” – 16th February 7:30pm – 10:00pm in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Easy to play, come and join us in this family-fun game. Prizes for winners. Adults - £3.50. Children - £2.50 (5-12 yrs). Under 5’s are free. Includes non-alcoholic punch or soft drink, hot dog and mince pie. There will also be a raffle. Please contact Nora on 503410 or Linda on 769429 for tickets.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT [C]
17th February 2013

Saturday February 16th
6:15 pm Parishioners
Sunday February 17th
8:00 am Mary O’Connell RIP
10:30 am Ints: Monica & Adrian Galvin and Family
4:00 pm POLISH MASS
6:30 pm Ints: Edit & Family
West Mersea
8:30 am Paul Williams
9:15 am Derek Foley RIP
Monkwick
9:15 am Rita Wright RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Baptismal Courses arranged as per Newsletter

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
At least six months notice is required