

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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8 January 2023

YR A

**Missionary Sisters of St. Peter**

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The second collection next weekend is for **Pax Christi**.

## PRAYING FOR BENEDICT...AND LISTENING TO HIM!

THIS PICTURE shows Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to England and Scotland in 2010, when he spent a morning at St Mary's University, Twickenham, meeting and addressing a large number of pupils and staff from Catholic schools throughout the country. Many of us have happy memories of the visit, when we ran a coach to the Mass in Birmingham, some of you went to the Vigil in Hyde Park, and some of us took part in the Mass in Westminster Cathedral.

Much has been written and said since his peaceful death on New Year's Eve. We are having a Requiem Mass at **6pm NEXT WEDNESDAY**, and our friends from other churches in Beckenham have been invited (we did the same when St John Paul II died in 2005). I just want to share here two aspects of his teachings, partly because they are often overlooked. I think the late pope was rather ill served by some of his devotees, many of whom were more interested in what he wore on his feet than what he wrote, but following his death there is time for some reasoned assessments, not just by theologians but by all of us: there have been some very good discussions and reflections - on BBC Radio 4 last Sunday, the *Tablet* webinar last Wednesday and in the current *Tablet* issue.

The first thing I want to point to is Benedict's theology of peace. When he was elected pope in 2005 he said that he took the name Benedict in honour of Benedict XV, who tried so hard to bring about a negotiated settlement during the First World War. Not only that: in his first message for World Peace Day at the beginning of 2006 he significantly moved forward the Catholic Church's opposition not only to nuclear weapons but to the nuclear deterrent. He wrote: **'What can be said, too, about those governments which count on nuclear arms as a means of ensuring the security of their countries? Along with countless persons of good will, one can state that this point of view is not only baneful but also completely fallacious. In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims. The truth of peace requires that all—whether those governments which openly or secretly possess nuclear arms, or those planning to acquire them—agree to change their course by clear and firm decisions, and strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament. The resources which would be saved could then be employed in projects of development capable of benefiting all their people, especially the poor.'** [section 13; for the whole message go to [39th World](#)



Day of Peace 2006, In Truth, Peace | BENEDICT XVI (vatican.va)]. To use less delicate language, nuclear deterrent policies, so beloved of this country, are a pack of lies. This is part of Catholic Social teaching. This was also important in his last encyclical letter, *Caritas in Veritate* ('Love in Truth') which appeared in 2009. This was originally planned for 2007, to mark the fortieth anniversary of the first papal letter about world development issues from Pope St Paul VI in 1967 (*Populorum Progressio*, 'The Progress of Peoples'), which had been condemned by right wing Americans; but Benedict

deferred his letter because of the world financial crisis. Like Paul's letter it addressed the relationship between rich and poor countries in the world, observing that not much had got better since the late 60s. He called for stronger regulation of the world economic and financial system, which went down badly with those obsessed with national sovereignty:

**'In the face of the unrelenting growth of global interdependence, there is a strongly felt need, even in the midst of a global recession, for a reform of the *United Nations Organization*, and likewise of *economic institutions and international finance*, so that the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth. One also senses the urgent need to find innovative ways of implementing the principle of the responsibility to protect and of giving poorer nations an effective voice in shared decision-making. This seems necessary in order to arrive at a political, juridical and economic order which can increase and give direction to international cooperation for the development of all peoples in solidarity. To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority.'** [section 67, for the whole letter go to [Caritas in veritate \(June 29, 2009\) | BENEDICT XVI \(vatican.va\)](#)]

May Benedict rest in peace.

## MASSES FOR WEEK BEGINNING 8 JANUARY YR A

<b>Sunday 8 January</b>	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>
6.00 pm VIGIL Church	Josef Wallner RIP (33rd anniv)
8.00 am Church	For the people
9.30 am Church	In thanks to our readers, collectors and those who make the offertory procession.
	For the people
9.30 am Hall	
	<b>FAMILY</b>
11.00 am Church	Patricia Griffin RIP (5th anniv)
5.30 pm Church	Joe Stanton RIP
<b>Monday 9 January</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 am Church	Patrick Delgatto
6.00 pm Church	Ints of Anne
<b>Tuesday 10 January</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 am Church	Eileen Monica O'Sullivan RIP
6.00 pm Church	Stewart, Elena & O'Sullivan Families RIP
<b>Wednesday 11 January</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 am Church	Ints of Mary Bradford
Noon Church	Funeral service for Mary Etheridge
	Requiem for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
6.00 pm Church	
<b>Thursday 12 January</b>	<b>Feria (St Aelred of Rievaulx)</b>
10.00 am Church	Ellen Keane RIP
11.00 pm Church	Requiem for Mick Westgarth
6.00 pm Church	Esther Browne RIP
8.00 pm Claver	Adoration
<b>Friday 13 January</b>	<b>St Hilary, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b>
10.00 am Church	Ints of David
6.00 pm Church	Ints of Sr Monica
<b>Saturday 14 January</b>	<b>Feria (The Blessed Virgin Mary)</b>
10.00 am Church	Monica Grima RIP
6.00 pm Church	Christine Nagle RIP
	<b>VIGIL</b>
<b>Sunday 15 January</b>	<b>Second Sunday</b>
8.00 am Church	Ints of the Ewings Family
9.30 am Church	Thomas Kehoe RIP
9.30 am Hall	For the people
	<b>FAMILY</b>
11.00 am Church	Douglas Arthur RIP (10th anniv)
5.30 pm Church	Nora & Patrick Doolan RIP

*There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am, and, after the 10.00 am Mass Monday to Saturday there is Adoration unless there is a Funeral.*

*Friday Adoration concludes with Benediction. Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 am - 11.00 am and from 5.00 pm - 5.55 pm.*

*If there is a priest available confession will be heard after the weekday 10.00 am Mass.*

## DIARY

### January

Mon 9	5.30 pm Meditation in the Hall
Wed 11	Noon. Funeral Service for Maria Etheridge
Wed 11	6.00 pm Requiem Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
Thurs 12	11.00 am Requiem Mass for Mick Westgarth
Sat 14	11.00 am to noon Contemplative Saturday in the Hall.
Mon 16	<b>Noon (This is a change of time)</b> Requiem Mass for John Sheehan
Fri 20	11.30 am Requiem Mass for Carmel Watt. <b>(This is a change of date)</b>
Wed 25	10.00 Requiem Mass for Joe Fennessy
Mon 30	10.00 am Requiem Mass for Glen Le Fleur

Next Sunday, 15 January, is **PEACE SUNDAY** and this year the message from Pope Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone. Combating Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'.

He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?'

In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media.

Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

Or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to: *Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY* Tel: 0208 203 4884. There are GA envelopes available at the back of the church.

**We pray for those who have died recently:** Veronica Carter, Maria Etheridge, Mick Westgarth, Paul Jarrett, Carmel Watt, Alban Weeks, John Sheehan, Glen Le Fleur, Joe Fennessy, Mark Clapson.

**We pray for those whose anniversaries are about this time:** Sheila Morgan, Patricia Griffin, Fr Patrick Byrne, Sheilah Renwood, Alex Tinto, James Wallis, Susan Pace, Anna Belford, Muriel Goffart, Teague McGinley, Fabrizio Lanzetti, Frank Penston, John Goodwill, Sr. Laserian Fleming, Michael Fitzpatrick, Harry McGuigan, Jean Harrigan, Carol Williams, Kathleen Bryon, Agnes Burns, Nora Teresa Kidd.

**We pray for all members of our parish and beyond, and in particular those suffering from ill health.**

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend Your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest Your weary ones. Bless Your dying ones. Soothe Your suffering ones. Pity Your afflicted ones. Shield Your joyous ones. And for all Your love's sake. Amen