

# OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



2A Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL  
 Phone (01634) 852979  
 Email: [office@ourladyofgillingham.org](mailto:office@ourladyofgillingham.org)  
 Website: [www.ourladyofgillingham.org](http://www.ourladyofgillingham.org)  
 Parish Priest Fr Geoffrey Pointer  
 Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]  
 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468

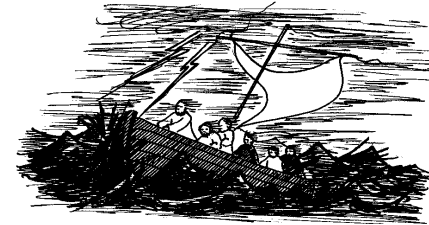
21st June 2009

## ✠ TWELFTH SUNDAY ✠

### WORD of GOD

Who can this be?  
 Even the wind and sea obey him.

(Mark 4:41)



### WORD for TODAY

Such is the God that we have that, although he has mastery over all creation, he does not keep us in captives in fear but offers us the fullness of life and love. Any other idea of God that we might have would be far too small.

**ORDINARY TIME AFTER EASTER** This Sunday sees the return of the familiar green vestments reminding us that we are in the period of the Church Year between Pentecost and Advent. Many of us will remember this as the period after Pentecost, and indeed today is chronologically the Third Sunday after Pentecost. The Directory invites us pray at this time of the year for the following intentions:

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - Ordinary Time (Summer):

- For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews;
- For those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights - *especially on 22nd June, the feast of SS John Fisher and Thomas More;*
- For Human Life - *especially on the last Sunday in July;*
- For Seafarers - *especially on the second Sunday in July, Sea Sunday;*
- For Europe - *especially on the feasts of St Benedict (11th July), St Brigid (23rd July) and St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (9th August), patrons of Europe.*



## ✠ The TWELFTH SUNDAY (B) ✠

Sun 21	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Deceased of Larkin and Costello Families
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Tino Mosca RIP
		4.00pm	<i>Malayalam Mass</i>
Mon 22	SS John Fisher and Thomas More	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Anne Saunders RIP
Tue 23	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Patrick & Bridget McEvoy RIP
Wed 24	The Birth of St John the Baptist	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.15am	✠ Mass: Intention of Sequeira Family
Thu 25	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Joseph Hannon RIP
Fri 26	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Sat 27	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
		10.30am	<i>Confession</i>
<b>✠ SS PETER and PAUL ✠</b>			
Sun 28	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Morris Gaghan RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Denis Murphy RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

Please pray for Rose Parr, recently dead, and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:

Elsie Adams, Ellen Rowley, Katherine Mosely, Mary Jones, Vincent John, Violet O'Hare, Bernard Mason, Penelope D'Armenia, Bernard Hall, Patricia O'Hara, Dolly Brooker, Cyril Field and Daniel O'Donnell.

May their souls and the souls of all the ✠ faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



## AROUND the PARISH

**THANK YOU** to the catechists and all those who worked so hard in preparing our children for their First Communions last weekend. As ever this was a joyful occasion, and we hope to welcome all of the families to Mass each week.

**ARCHBISHOP'S LETTER** Particularly for those at the Saturday and 11am Sunday Masses last week, copies of the Archbishop's pastoral letter are available.

**ROSE PHILOMENA PARR RIP** We have received notification from Rose's daughter, Mrs Rebecca Towler, that Rose's funeral will be at St Thomas', Rainham, on Wednesday 24th at 10am. Afterwards to Bobbing Crematorium. Mrs Towler feels that there may be many of Rose's old friends in the parish with whom she is unable to make direct contact. ✕ May she rest in peace.

**DAY of CELEBRATION** for the close of the Year of St Paul at Aylesford next Saturday, 27th June. Archbishop Kevin will be leading this Diocesan Day of Celebration beginning with Mass at 12noon and closing with a Celebration of the Word of God at 3.30pm. As it is on our doorstep, it is particularly convenient for parishioners to join in the celebrations. If anyone requires transport, please let us know.

**SCHOOL SUMMER FETE** St Mary's are holding their very popular summer fete on Saturday 27th June from 1 to 4.30. This is a great outing for all ages and the school really do appreciate support from the parish. Entrance 25p for adults - children free.

**TABLE SALE** Don't forget to come into the hall after both Masses next Sunday for our table sale. A chance to pick up a bargain, and definitely to stock up on some holiday reading.

**IRISH EVENING** on Friday 10th July at 7.30. An evening of Irish music and

dancing with a light supper. Entrance £5 - all proceeds to go to the building fund. The list for attendance is on the table at the back of the church - please do put your name down as it helps to know the numbers for catering.

**CONFIRMATION** Bishop John Hine will be visiting the parish to confer the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 13th November at 7.30pm. Anyone not yet Confirmed and born before **1st September 1996**, i.e. starting Year 9 or above in September, can apply (you need to have been baptized and have made your First Communion). Classes will begin in July before the schools' summer break. Application forms are available from Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Michael.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**St JOHN FISHER SCHOOL** has a vacancy for a Teacher of ICT on the Graduate Trainee Programme. Closing date for applications is Friday 3rd July. See the notice on the schools notice board.

**YOUTH FESTIVAL '09** At Aylesford Priory on Saturday 4th July from 10.30am to 8pm. A day of varied activities, music and celebration for secondary school years. See the poster or email [info@scys.org.uk](mailto:info@scys.org.uk).

**DAY of CELEBRATION** at Aylesford for sharing in the gifts of people with disabilities. Sunday 12th July. Gathering Service at 12noon followed by various activities. Concluding with Mass at 4pm. See the poster in the porch.

**St JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP** This highly popular summer camp for children costs only £130 per week. Boys, aged 8-13, 18th-25th July, 25th July to 1st August and 1st-8th August. Girls 9-12 years old 8th-15th August. See the poster in the porch for details.

**SOUTHWARK BRETHREN CHARITY** is a long standing charity which helps

retired and sick priests who are in need. They thank us for our generosity in the past and ask our help again this year. Please send donations to Rev. Paul Hough, St Elphege's Presbytery, 120 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9AY. Last year they were able to give £1,000 each to 32 Priests in the Diocese of Southwark and Arundel & Brighton, and also help 7 working priests who had serious sickness. In addition they have a Gift Aid Scheme for those who pay tax and they thank the lay people who have joined by applying for a Gift Aid form. Tel: 020 8647 5079.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE** The SPUC have alerted us to proposals before Parliament regarding assisted suicide and "mercy killing". Please give this urgent consideration and write to members of the House of Lords asking them not to support the bill. See information in the porch.

**BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST** An excellent new publication of guidelines for the sacraments from our own Christian Education Centre. To order a copy (£6 + postage) contact the centre: [bookshop@cectootingbec.org.uk](mailto:bookshop@cectootingbec.org.uk), 020 8672 2422. (Fr Geoffrey has a copy.)

**FAITH IN FOCUS: A HERE-AND-THERE GOD** Job is often credited with being a patient man. We talk of the patience of Job perhaps because so many awful things happened to him and yet he kept his faith in God. Yet it didn't stop him from having a go at God and complaining about his circumstances. In today's reading God comes back at him and says, "Where were you when I was creating the world?" Our relationship with God in Christ is a strange one. On the one hand we keep God at a distance, recognising that he is all-powerful, that he is the author of creation and that we are nothing but impotent compared to the attributes of God. Yet on the other

hand we claim enormous intimacy with God, calling him our Father, confiding our hopes and fears to him and expecting him to forgive our faults and failings. The idea that God is up there in heaven and completely beyond our fathoming is called God's transcendence. The idea that he is very much present here on earth, accessible in Jesus and made visible in the lives of other people is called God's immanence. Today's scripture reveals that our God is both transcendent and immanent. He's both here and there. When Jesus and the disciples are in the boat and it's in danger of sinking their natural reaction is to turn to Jesus who calms the storm. This teaches us a number of things. Firstly, it teaches us that God hasn't just made the world and then left it to its own devices. Jesus uses the power given by his Father to intervene. God is not simply transcendent, not simply up there. He's here as well. And secondly it shows us the closeness of Jesus' relationship with the Father that he could rebuke nature and it would obey him. This story is perhaps one way in which St Mark tries to let us know how the disciples gradually learned Jesus' secret: that he was the Messiah of God. Unlike the disciples, Job had no trouble realising that God was up there and yet down here. He recognised that God was responsible for creating the world and keeping it in being and yet he dared to call on God to engage in the most mundane things. If you were looking for God today, would you look up there or down here?

**ATTENDANCE** Church was packed last week thanks to the First Communion Masses. The Parish received a very welcome **£1,503.69** in the collection. Thank you for your generosity. ♦ Next week there will be a retiring collection for Peter's Pence. There will also be the annual appeal for Gift Aid.