

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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Registered Charity 235468

27th June 2010

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th JUNE 2010

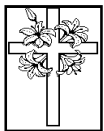
✕ THIRTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✕

Sun 27	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Denis Murphy RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Morris Gaghan RIP <i>Baptism of Lusja Sialefuka</i>
Mon 28	St Irenaeus	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: In Thanksgiving
Tue 29	SS PETER and PAUL <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	11.00am	✕ Mass: Colin Shepard RIP
		7.30pm	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Wed 30	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
Thu 1st July	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Ben de Souza RIP
Fri 2	Feria	7.30pm	✕ Mass: In Reparation for abortion
Sat 3	St Thomas	10.00am	✕ Mass: Peter Nelson RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

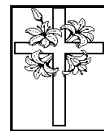
✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✕

Sun 4	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mariea Lee RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Vivien Pear RIP
		4.00pm	<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>

Please pray for Jose Maria Bonet Rubio and Anthony Cullen, recently dead; and for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Daniel O'Donnell, Nellie Kitney, Kevin Keogh, Mavis Rogers, Margaret King, Timothy O'Driscoll, Percival Snowdon, Peggy French, Michael Kavanagh, Joyce Birkbeck, Frederick Rogers and Evelyn Ryan.



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

✕ THIRTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✕

WORD OF GOD

Elisha took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the plough for cooking the oxen, then gave to his men, who ate. He then rose and followed Elijah and became his servant.

(1 Kings 19:21)



WORD FOR TODAY

The speed with which Elisha settled his affairs so as to follow Elijah is remarkable but shows how much he valued the calling being made to him. We have already heeded the call of Jesus. How quick are we to put it into practice when called upon in our daily affairs?

A TENTMAKER and a FISHERMAN (29th June) You wouldn't think that Paul, a tent-maker, and Peter, a fisherman, would be the obvious choices when it comes to influencing the growth and development of the Church in its infancy. Yet the rest is history. Peter was anything but a rock; he was headstrong and impulsive; he was full of boasts but often failed to deliver; he was at Christ's right hand yet he also betrayed him to the sound of the cock crowing. Paul was one of those people who began life wanting to see other people's downfall. He persecuted those who fell short of the high Jewish standards. Yet suddenly he saw the light and he began to put to shame those who had been with Jesus from the start by his fierce and logically argued defence of the budding Christian religion. He ended up claiming the status of an apostle and rejoicing at being a prisoner for Christ. Both Peter and Paul by their zeal in preaching and teaching, as well as by the witness they gave to Christ by spilling their blood, are heroes in faith. Today we are unlikely to have to give our lives for our faith, but we are called to be equally zealous, like them, in letting the world know that all it has to offer is "utter garbage" (Paul's words) when compared with the joy of belonging to Jesus. "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith." (St Augustine)



AROUND the PARISH

CONFIRMATION SUCCESS Last weekend's Confirmation retreat was, by all accounts, a great success. Our thanks to those who ran the weekend.

IRISH NIGHT We had a wonderful Irish Evening last Friday. Special thanks to those who led the entertainment and those who did the catering of traditional Irish fare. We also made a profit of **£575.56** for the Building Fund. What a bonus!

GIFT AID This weekend at all Masses Mr Leo Kelly will give the annual Gift Aid appeal.

HOLY DAY of OBLIGATION This Tuesday, the feast of Saint Peter and Paul, we have something of a rare breed: a holy day of obligation. Last year all of the holy days, with the exception of Christmas Day, were celebrated on a Sunday because they fell on a Saturday or a Monday. (Parishioners will remember that in 2006 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales decreed that the Epiphany, the Ascension of the Lord and Corpus Christi are now always celebrated on Sunday.) This year the Assumption falls on a Sunday and All Saints on a Monday and is therefore anticipated on the Sunday. Christmas Day falls on a Saturday but is not transferred to the Sunday. Catholics are bound to attend Mass on a holy day of obligation (hence the title).

GOING on HOLIDAY? No need to worry about where to find the nearest Church to your holiday destination. We have a directory in the office of all the Catholic Churches in England and Wales. If you are able to access the internet then you can also follow this link: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/The-Church-in-England-and-Wales/Dioceses>. We also have out-of-date copies of the Scottish and Irish directories.

NEW to the PARISH? If so, a very warm welcome, and please do introduce your-

self to one of the welcomers at the door. There is a form on the windowsill at the Railway Street entrance and we would be grateful if you would fill this in for our parish records. There is tea and coffee in our hall after both Sunday morning Masses so please do drop in for a drink and a chat.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS New lists are in the pigeon holes in the sacristy.

QUIZ NIGHT 17th July: £5 per person. A supper of sausages, mash and beans will be provided. Please bring your own drinks.

DIARY DATE The next Indian Indulgence meal will be on 26th September at 1.00pm.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

VACANCY at St John Fisher School for a catering assistant, part time, 10 hours per week during term time, from September. For details please see the schools notice board (on the right at the car park exit) or visit www.st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk.

CELEBRATION for PEOPLE of all ABILITIES Day at Aylesford on 11th July: gathering service at 12noon and Mass at 4pm. For any enquiry contact Mary Boley on 020 8672 7684 or email office@cectootingbec.org.uk.

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE will be holding a Youth Festival at Aylesford on 3rd July from 10.30am to 8pm. For further details please see the notice on the board. We have a booking form in the office so please see Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Michael. There will also be a World Youth Day in Madrid from 14th to 22nd August. For further information contact SCYS on 01227 272900.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE All are invited to join the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 20th to 27th August. Travel by rail from £630, by air from £680 or by coach from £465. Young helpers' fare (by coach) £455. For further

information and booking forms contact: Deacon Michael Kennedy (Pilgrimage Director) 4 Orbel Street, Battersea, London, SW11 3NZ, rcaspilgrim@btinternet.com, tel. 07521 519482.

THE VISIT of POPE BENEDICT Take with you a copy of the leaflet produced in conjunction with the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, and that of Scotland. It is intended to give as much background information as possible about the visit of the Holy Father to this country in September. For more information have a look at the Papal Website (www.thepapalvisit.org.uk) which has been especially created to promote, support and provide information about the Holy Father's visit.

HOPE FOR A NEW BEGINNING for the widowed, separated and divorced at Sisters of St Andrew, Edenbridge, 8 – 10 October. Beginning Experience is led by trained volunteers, encouraging participants to share their need and deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. Contact Ruth (020 8679 7157), Sandra (01293 783965) or Susan (01227 264967). Closing date for applications is 30th June.

FAITH in FOCUS: RAPID RESPONSE The people who met Jesus on the road in today's gospel, and who all had reasons to delay following him, are mirror images of Elisha when he was called to come and follow the prophet Elijah. After an initial request to go and say goodbye to his parents Elisha realised the enormity of the calling. There and then he killed a pair of oxen he was using to plough the field with, killed them and cooked them by burning the plough. The meat would have been absolutely fresh but not very tender! It's noticeable that, when Jesus was calling his apostles, we are told that they left their nets etc. "at once" and followed him. For those who choose to be followers of Jesus there is an immediate attraction, something

which is no mere half-way house appeal. When the famous prophet Elijah throws his cloak over the simple farmer Elisha, then Elisha knows he has a claim on him. If there's one thing God can't stand then it must be half-heartedness. Am I serving God with every ounce of strength and commitment or am I just doing enough to keep my conscience quiet? Am I just covering all bases and paying the premiums on my heavenly insurance policy? Or do I feel a magnetic attraction to Jesus and all that he asks of me? In my life is God a passion or a hobby? When Jesus calls us to be disciples, he calls us to make a lifelong, irrevocable, absolute commitment. Most of us follow Jesus to the best of our abilities but we are also aware that there are areas of our lives where we hold back, aspects of the way we live that are not helping our commitment as disciples of Jesus. This is because following Jesus is an ongoing, lifelong commitment. We have continually to ratify our commitment, to keep signing on the dotted line as disciples of Christ. What are the nets that Jesus is still asking us to leave, the oxen that we need to slaughter, the ploughs that we have to burn? Are there relationships in our lives that dull our response? Are there habits that we have taken for granted but which make us slow to respond to the challenge of being followers? Or have we felt the cloak thrown over us, God's mantle in Christ, which calls us to follow wherever he may lead and to proclaim the best news possible to those we meet on the road?

ATTENDANCE Last weekend we welcomed **626** people into the Church; the offertory came to **£718.23**. This week's retiring collection is for Peter's Pence: our way of enabling the Apostolic See to exercise its service of the Universal Church.

50/50 CLUB Winner: ticket 14 with Phil Croft winning, £48. Collecting next week.