

# OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



2A Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL  
 Phone (01634) 852979  
 Email: 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]

Registered Charity 235468

4th July 2010

## ✠ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

### WORD OF GOD

At her breast will nurslings be carried  
 and fondled in her lap.  
 Like a son comforted by his mother  
 will I comfort you.

(Isaiah 66:12-13)



### WORD FOR TODAY

The God whom we think we know reveals himself to us in many  
 and varied ways. Where do we look in our daily routine to see God  
 acting in our world, showing his love and guiding our lives?

### Archbishop Peter receives the Pallium



The Holy Father presided at Mass in St Peter's Basilica on the  
 Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, the day when, traditionally,  
 he confers the Pallium on the Metropolitan Archbishops whom he  
 had appointed during the year.

During the Mass, the Pallia were brought from the Confession of  
 St Peter, the sunken chapel beneath the high altar of the Basilica  
 above the necropolis in which St Peter was buried.

*The Pope's exhortation on giving the Pallium:*

To the glory of God and the praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary and  
 of the apostles Peter and Paul, and of the Holy Roman Church,

for the honour of the Churches, which have been placed in your care, and as a symbol  
 of your authority as metropolitan archbishop: We confer on you the Pallium taken from  
 the tomb of Peter to wear within the limits of your ecclesiastical provinces.

*And then the prayer of blessing:*

May this Pallium be a symbol of unity and a sign of your communion with the Apostolic  
 See, a bond of love, and an incentive to courage. On the day of the coming and mani-  
 festation of our great God and chief shepherd, Jesus Christ, may you and the flock en-  
 trusted to you be clothed with immortality and glory. In the name of the Father, and of  
 the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Father conferred the Pallium on 38 Metropolitan Archbishops, including  
 Archbishop Peter and Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham, who will welcome  
 the Pope to his diocese for the Beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman at Cofton  
 Park on Sunday, 19th September.

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th JULY 2010

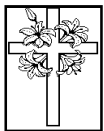
### ✠ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

<b>Sun 4</b>	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>
<b>Mon 5</b>	Feria	10.00am	✠ Requiem Mass: Jose Maria Bonet Rubio
<b>Tue 6</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: James Cullen RIP
<b>Wed 7</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Peggy O'Brien
<b>Thur 8</b>	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Deceased family of J and E Fernandez
<b>Fri 9</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Arthur Ryan RIP
<b>Sat 10</b>	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Paul Dixon RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

### ✠ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

<b>Sun 11</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Verdolini Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Winifred Brown RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Emily Dowling</i>

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



Kathleen Figg, Elizabeth Goodwin, Harold Gent, Paul Dixon,  
 Vera Newton, Inez Trutwein, Ivy Longridge, Tyrone Ward,  
 Baby Jessica Lichfield, Letterio Lauri, Paddy Kehoe,  
 Audrey Green, Jim Wilson and Marian Kalibabka.



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

## AROUND the PARISH

**PARISH MINISTRY** The third meeting of the group interested in the theme of developing parish ministry is to be held this Tuesday, 6th July, at 7.30pm in the church choir loft.

**QUIZ NIGHT** 17th July at 7.30: £5 per person. A supper of sausages, mash and beans will be provided. Please bring your own drinks. There is a list on the table in the porch - please let us know if you will be coming and how many people will be in your party as this does help with catering.

**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 yourself 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.

**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 Sep-

tember. For details please see the schools notice board (on the right at the car park exit) or visit [www.st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk](http://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](mailto:office@cectootingbec.org.uk).

**The PASSAGE** Please support the excellent work which The Passage does for homeless people in central London, by attending The Passage annual Garden Party in Westminster Abbey College Gardens on Wednesday 21st July from 5.30 to 8.30pm. Tickets £25 each including wine, buffet supper and live music. Tickets from The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL, 020 7592 1856. See the poster.

**A DAY WITH MARY** At the Church of Our Lady and St Peter, Victoria Drive, SW19 on Saturday 31st July. Details on the noticeboard.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk)) which has been especially created to promoted,

support and provide information about the Holy Father's visit.

**FAITH in FOCUS: THE MOTHER OF ALL GODS?** In an attempt to shock, someone once said that all we know about God is that she is black. The one sure thing we can say about God is that he/she does not fit into a box. God is greater than anything we can ever imagine or understand. In today's liturgy Isaiah uses feminine imagery to describe how God deals with the chosen people. And so God says that "she" will be like a mother to us, consoling us when we are sad, fondling us in her lap and suckling us at her breasts when we are in need of sustenance. Of course, God is just God. God's not a man; not a woman; not something in between. God transcends, goes beyond, gender. But thinking of God in terms of a mother as well as a father allows us to glimpse God in an entirely new light. It means that we can suddenly appreciate the tender, life-giving, nursing side to God. These feminine attributes remind us that there is no part of our lives that God is absent from, and nothing that God is unconcerned about. Living as we do in a scientific age, we tend to think that we can dissect everything and find out exactly how it works before putting it back together again. Then we can use it when we want it. This approach sometimes affects the way people think about God. The have a Jack-in-the Box God that can be kept with the lid shut and brought out by undoing the catch when we can't solve the problem ourselves and need a bit of divine help. However, God is much too big to fit in the box and much too clever to be tamed by our attempts to tie him/her down to neat categories. Anyone who has ever read the scriptures will know that time and time again God acts in precisely the opposite way to how we humans think he/she should. God picks the

very people whom everyone else discounts on the first ballot; God grants victory to the underdog; God confounds the proud with the humility of the meek, and turns up in circumstances where we wouldn't expect God to be. Today Isaiah reminds us that God is bigger than us and we cannot pretend to have God taped. If we let our minds be stretched by thinking of God as both a mother and a father then we get twice as much God for our money!

**ATTENDANCE** last week was **425**. We received **£1,246.41** in the offertory (inflated by a large quarterly cheque); many thanks the generous support given. We received an anonymous gift of **£100** for the Building Fund, and would like to thank the donor. Our Building Fund is being accumulated to deal with the many renovations needed in the church and all our properties. ♦ The retiring collection for Peter's Pence came to **£124.60**. ♦ Our thanks to Leo Kelly and Rose Buston for promoting our Gift Aid Scheme last weekend. About 20 names were added to the list. This is a splendid way to boost our parish income; thank you to them and all those in the scheme.

**NEXT WEEK** is Sea Sunday, when the Church remembers all those who live and work at sea. This yea is also 'The Year of the Seafarer', and so is a very important year for the Apostleship of the Sea and Seafarers. Seafarers are commonly recruited from poorer countries where wages are lower. Seafarers work in difficult and often dangerous conditions suffering from loneliness, spiritual deprivation and even exploitation as they transport the goods we use and consume every day. Sea Sunday is your chance to help the Apostleship of the Sea make a real difference to the lives of seafarers, so please give generously in the retiring collection next week; their ministry cannot continue without you.