

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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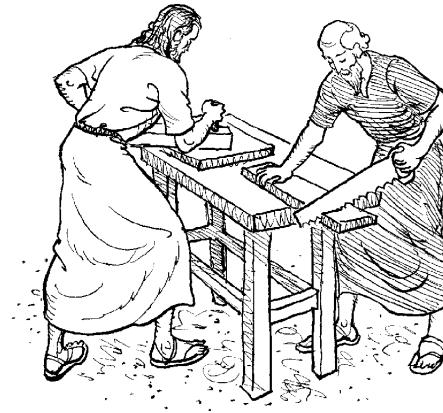
— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

5th July 2009

✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY ✕

WORD of GOD

This is the carpenter surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters too, are they not here with us? And they would not accept him. (Mark 6:3)



WORD for TODAY

When were you last surprised to learn something from an unexpected source? From someone you thought unlikely to be able to help? Like the people in Jesus' home town we often close our eyes and ears to what our neighbours are saying; yet we might just learn something if we open ourselves to the possibility that people we're familiar with might have something to offer us.

The Year of the Priesthood

Pope Benedict XVI announced a Year of the Priesthood to run from 19th June 2009 until 19th June 2010. He said that this special year is intended 'to encourage priests in striving for spiritual perfection on which, above all, the effectiveness of their ministry depends'.

The occasion is the 150th anniversary of the death of St John Vianney, the Curé (Parish Priest) of Ars in France, renowned for his holiness and deep concern for the spirituality of his parishioners. He is the Patron Saint of Parish Priests, but the Holy Father is expected to name him as Patron Saint of **all** the priests of the world during the course of the year.

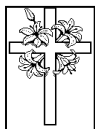
The Holy Father opened the Year at Vespers, in the presence of the relics of St John Vianney, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY (B) ✕

Sun 5	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Margaret Ling RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Rosaria & Salvatori Formosa RIP
		4.00pm	<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>
Mon 6	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: The Welfare of Greta Hyde
Tue 7	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Weronika Oszywa RIP
Wed 8	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ School at Mass: In Reparation for Abortion
Thu 9	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Carlton Aubert RIP
Fri 10	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Weronika Oszywa RIP
Sat 11	St Benedict	10.00am	✕ Mass: Winifred Brown RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY (B) ✕			
Sun 12	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP

Please pray for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:



Elizabeth Goodwin, Harold Gent, Vera Newton,
 Inez Trutwein, Ivy Longridge, Tyrone Ward,
 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

MASS INTENTIONS If you wish to have a Mass intention offered for your loved ones on a specific date please note that we are fully booked up until well into September. Note, however, that if a visiting priest concelebrates he can offer the Mass for a separate intention and we may therefore be able to add an intention at short notice. You can also book Masses for next year in the forward planner.

CTS PAMPHLETS There is a supply of new titles, including a beautiful Mass book for children. Please do check out the stand on the windowsill in the porch. Our faith keeps up to date with so many current issues, and these little booklets can offer reliable information and guidance. Please put the money for the booklets into the box for newspaper money.

TABLE SALE After both Sunday Masses this weekend. Books, bric-a-brac etc. Thank you to all those who have so generously donated goods.

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.

JOSS BAY Our annual parish outing to Joss Bay will be on Sunday 2nd August. The coach leaves from the church after the 9.30am Mass. This is great fun for all, from toddlers to grandparents, and everyone in between! The cost this year will be £12 for adults and £6 for children under 10 years. To book a place (early booking

is recommended) please ring John Formosa on 573378.

CONFIRMATION Unfortunately, owing to low numbers, it looks as if there will be no Confirmations this year. Sorry for any inconvenience or disappointment this will inevitably cause.

LOOK AHEAD Please keep Sunday 29th November free in your diary: the Indian Indulgence Team is organizing one of its delicious lunches - proceeds to go to the Building Fund.

PERIODICALS Please support the Catholic Press: we often have to return unsold newspapers, which seems a pity. *The Sacred Heart Messenger* and *My Day by Day* for July are now available.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

St JOHN FISHER SCHOOL has a vacancy for a Faculty Leader of Communication/Lead Teacher of English for September or January start. Please see the notice on the schools notice board.

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.

GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE to the Shrine of Our Lady in Willingham on 25th July. For details contact Catherine Wiley, the Grandparents' Pilgrimage Organiser on telephone 01328 820217 or email catherine.wiley1@aol.com.

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 cen-

tre: 020 8672 2422, or email: bookshop@cectootingbec.org.uk. (Fr Geoffrey has a copy.)

FAITH IN FOCUS: NOTHING SPECIAL HERE There's a famous Latin phrase, attributed to Tacitus the Elder, that says "Omne ignotum pro magifico". When roughly translated it means "Things we don't understand seem wonderful". People are always impressed by things that are a bit exotic. They presume a French burger van is going to serve better food than a British one. They imagine even a one-legged ballerina will perform excellently just because she is Russian. They are convinced that since a Scandinavian scientist has a theory on black pudding being good for gout then it must be correct. And they are prepared to spend a fortune on a holiday to Burma on the assumption that it's bound to be better than Bognor. We are easily impressed by out-of-the-ordinary things. We find them somehow more glamorous than what's on our doorstep or what's easy to understand. This is illustrated in today's gospel when Jesus returned to his home town and to the people that knew him. Despite his reputation and regardless of the fact that he's just performed a series of miracles his neighbours reject him. Why? Because we know who he is; he's Mary and Joseph's son. Nothing special. Nothing to start crowing about. It's easy for us to sit in judgement on the people of Nazareth and accuse them of blindness and stupidity. But we can be as guilty as they are. We can fail to see what's good on our doorstep. We can fail to see the wood for the trees. God uses people and situations of ordinary daily life to speak to us. Most of us will never be

visited by an angel with a special message. But we will meet all sorts of people and situations week in and week out that are shouting the message of the gospel to us. These people may be our neighbours; they may be (and often are) people we don't like or find it hard to accept and get on with. But they're still the mouthpieces that God uses to announce his never-ending call. There are no people or places that we can write off. So, how open are we to all the sights and sounds around us? God's voice is bound to be in one or other of them. Why not let yourself be surprised?

ATTENDANCE Last week we welcomed **394** people to Mass, and received **£1,166.80** in the collection - thank you. ♦ The retiring collection for Peter's Pence came to **£136.27**. ♦ Next Week is **Sea Sunday** and there will be a retiring collection for the Apostleship of the Sea. Please be generous in your support for the chaplains who minister to the many Catholic seafarers, some of whom are away from homes and families for months at a time. Seafarers are commonly recruited from poorer countries where wages are lower, and they work in difficult and often dangerous conditions. They suffer from loneliness, spiritual deprivation and even exploitation as they transport the goods we use and consume every day. ♦ Thank you to those parishioners who responded to Mr Leo Kelly's Gift Aid appeal last weekend. We were able to enrol 26 new members in the scheme. This will greatly assist us in our renovation programme. Our thanks to Leo and also to Mrs Rose Buston for all the hard work they put in to organizing this scheme on our behalf.