

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th JULY 2010

✠ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

Sun 18	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Deceased members of Bishop Family <i>Baptism of Jamie Daniel Bland</i>
		12noon	<i>Baptism of Luke Norris</i>
		4pm	✠ Mass: for the Malayalam Community
Mon 19	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Thomas Kiernan RIP
Tue 20	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: James, Julia, Pat and Terry Knell RIP
Wed 21	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Andrew Campbell RIP
Thu 22	St Mary Magdalene	7.00am	✠ Mass: O'Regan Family
		Fri 23	St Bridget
10.00am	✠ Mass: Michael Kiernan RIP		
Sat 24	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Intention of Weller Family
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
		1.00pm	<i>Marriage: Evelyn Fosuah and Eric Amankwaah</i>

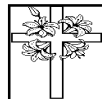
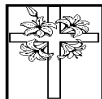
✠ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

Sun 25	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Theresa Lawson RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Barry and Thelma Hodgeman RIP

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:

Lorenza Rutland, Joan Wright, Catherine Jordan, Aldo Galvin,
Thomas Kiernan, Betty Eley, Ellen Carter, Mary Aitken,
Thomas O'Hare, Zygmunt Makowski, Francisco Lobato-Colon,
Patrick McCormick, Sheila Hunt, Mick Robinson and Nella Allcorn.

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



OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
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18th July 2010

Registered Charity 235468

✠ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

Martha, it is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.

(Luke 10:42)

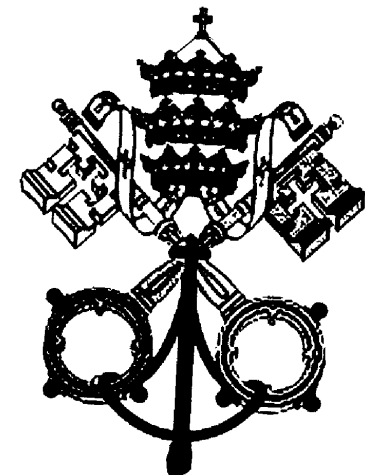
WORD FOR TODAY

We sometimes have a pathological fear that if we are not busy doing things then we are somehow failing. Martha and Mary's story reminds us that it is not just what we do that is important but what we are. And if we are to know what we are, then we have to stop and think.



PAPAL VISIT PRAYER

God of truth and love,
your Son, Jesus Christ, stands as the light
to all who seek you with a sincere heart.
As we strive with your grace
to be faithful in word and deed,
may we reflect the kindly light of Christ
and offer a witness of hope and peace to all.
We pray for Pope Benedict
and look forward with joy to his forthcoming visit to
our countries.
May he be a witness to the unity and hope which is
your will for all people.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Our Lady, Mother of the Church, pray for us.
St Andrew, pray for us.
St George, pray for us.
St David, pray for us.



AROUND the PARISH

YOUNG PARISHIONERS After this week the Children's Liturgy will be closing for the summer break. We begin again on 5th September. This gives all the Children's Liturgy team a chance to have a well earned break. May we take this opportunity to thank the hard working teams for all their behind the scenes work that is put in to encourage the children of our parish. Thank you.

FRIDAY MASS Since moving the First Friday Mass to the evening the numbers attending have dropped by over a half. It was hoped that making this move once a month would give more people a chance to come to Mass; this seems not to have been the case. In view of this, Mass on the first Friday of the month will revert to its morning schedule from August. Sorry it didn't work out.

PARISH FINANCE MEETING Monday 19th July, 7.30pm in the presbytery.

PARISH BARBECUE Next Sunday, 25th July at 1.00pm in the presbytery garden. £5 a head and bring your own drinks. A relaxing get-together and a chance to enjoy the 'barbecue summer' delayed from last year.

READERS New lists are in the pigeon holes in the sacristy.

ANNUAL TRIP to JOSS BAY This great day for the whole family will be on Sunday 8th August this year, the coach will leave after the 9.30 Mass. The cost for adults is £6, and £3 for children under 15 years. To book please phone John Formosa on 573378.

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

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

CAFOD SUPPORTERS' DAY 11th September from 10am to 2.30pm. A

day when CAFOD supporters can hear first hand accounts of the work which is being done in Rwanda. Further details at a later date, or email Southwark @cafod.org.uk.

DO YOU HAVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXPERIENCE? If so the Diocese would like you to make contact with Maureen Todd on 01689 829331. Maureen is recruiting people to serve as Catholic Representatives in the area of education.

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@btinter-net.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 possi-

ble 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 promoted, support and provide information about the Holy Father's visit. ♦ Our Diocese, along with all the others, has been invited to travel to the main events: the Hyde Park Prayer Vigil on Saturday 18th September in the afternoon and the Beatification Mass in Birmingham on Sunday 19th September. We need someone to organize the parish bookings and travel. If anyone is interested please see Fr Geoffrey who has just received all the details.

FAITH in FOCUS: HOW TO AVOID GOD We have defined ourselves by what we do, not by what we are. When first meeting a person we often ask "What do you do?" And we seem to be impressed by how busy they are. Somebody with a full diary, with a frenetic lifestyle and a backlog of texts on their mobile phone is considered a success. To have no time is thought of as a status symbol. But we may still not know who we are. If we always respond to the urgent, we may end up missing the essential. By keeping busy we can easily stave off what we know we should really be doing. Where we set our priorities often says more about how we would like to be thought of than it does about who we really are. It's easy to hear the episode about Jesus visiting Martha and Mary and to come out on Mary's side. She was the one who sat and talked while Martha was going frantic in the kitchen. The gospel tells us that Martha was "distracted" by all the work that had to be done for the meal and the entertaining. But both Martha and Mary were needed. The guest did not come just for food but for

company too. Mary played her part by entertaining Jesus and by allowing herself to be enriched as she listened to what he had to say. Martha's role was to get everything just right so that the meal would go without a hitch. It might be a bit harsh to say that the whole occasion smacked of devotion on Mary's part and of duty on Martha's. But what is certain is that Martha allowed herself to be "distracted" by important things that could have waited until she'd shown the basic courtesies. Maybe she'd got into the habit of doing everything in the kitchen and then feeling sorry for herself and blaming others? She wouldn't be the first! In our relationship with God, do we feel that we have always got to be doing something? Always active, proving our love of God? A faith without any sign of good works would be a lazy one. But if we never slow down enough to talk to God, to rest in God's presence and to listen for what God is trying to tell us, then we will end up running on very low batteries. And we might find that what we thought was crucial just turns out to be a way of distracting ourselves and avoiding God.

ATTENDANCE: Last week **392** people attended Mass here and we received **£516.67** in the offertory. The Sea Sunday collection amounted to **£196.17**. Next Sunday is nominated by the Bishops' Conference as a Day for Life, and is dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. There will be a retiring collection next week to assist the work of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre (formerly the Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics) and other life-related activities supported by the Church. Envelopes are available and please pick up a leaflet to guide you in prayer next Sunday.