

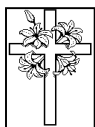
✠ **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY (B)** ✠

Sun 19	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Dec'd Members of Bishop family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Thomas Kiernan RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		1.00pm	<i>Baptism of Shannon Walling-Town</i>
		4.00pm	✠ <i>Mass for the Malayalam community</i>
Mon 20	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Patricia's intentions
Tue 21	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Andrew Campbell RIP
Wed 22	St Mary Magdalene	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Giovanni Caporiccio RIP
Thu 23	St Bridget	7.00am	✠ Mass: Michael Kiernan RIP
Fri 24	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Sat 25	St James the Great	10.00am	✠ Mass: Barry and Thelma Hodgeman RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

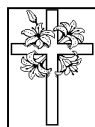
✠ **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY (B)** ✠

Sun 26	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Giuseppe Vitalo & Helena Cecy RIP <i>Baptisms of Brendan, Christel, Grant and Pomeroy</i>
		2.00pm	<i>Baptisms of Felicity, Victor and Letitia</i>

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



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



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

# 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 —

19th July 2009

✠ **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY** ✠

**WORD of GOD**

He took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them at some length.

(Mark 6:34)

**WORD for TODAY**

Shepherds only lead sheep to where there is better food and water. As our true shepherd, Jesus wants us to know how to get the most out of our days, where to find happiness and where to enjoy the life that God intended for us. I know my sheep, says Jesus, and they follow me.



**FROM THE ARCHBISHOP** I wish to express my sincere thanks to all those who took part in the Diocesan Day to Celebrate the Year of St Paul at Aylesford on Saturday 27th June. It was a vibrant and memorable celebration. Over 3,000 people from parishes and deaneries across the diocese came together as one family in a great spirit of joy and thankfulness to listen to the Word of God both in the morning Mass and the afternoon liturgy. I wish to thank in particular the Carmelite Friars at Aylesford for their very warm welcome and all those who worked so hard to make the Day such a success. I encourage you, as I did on the day, to continue to listen attentively to the readings of St Paul, particularly at the Sunday Mass, and to read his Letters. ✠ Kevin

*There will be another chance for the Diocese to join together when Archbishop Kevin offers Mass at 11.30am at the Friars on Saturday 10th October, 2009, to celebrate the visit of the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux.*

## AROUND the PARISH

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** Today will be the last children's liturgy until 6th September. Thank you to all of those who help - if anyone is interested in assisting with the liturgy from September please speak to one of the organisers in the hall after Mass.

**CHILDREN'S MISSALS** We now have a fresh supply of these beautiful books and they are on the windowsill at the back of the church. The cost is only £3.95 and they are a very suitable book for you young children to look at during Mass, especially whilst the children's liturgy is closed for the summer. There are also some very attractive hard back prayer books specially written and illustrated for children.

**BEST WISHES** to all the staff and children in our parish school as they break up for the summer. Good wishes especially to the children in year 6 who transfer to their senior schools in September. There is a farewell Mass for them in the school on Wednesday.

**HOLIDAYS** If you are holidaying in England and Wales we have a directory of all the Catholic Churches, with contact details and Mass times. Please ask in the office if you have a particular destination in mind.

**NEWSLETTERS** If you have been away, there are usually some back issues of our parish newsletter in a box just inside the sacristy door. Please help yourself.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**FLOWER FESTIVAL** by Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. Celebration of God given talents by users of church halls and church fellowship, Gillingham United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 31st July, 1st August, 3rd August - 10 am to 4 pm, 2nd August - 2pm to 5.30 pm. Free admission, Donations to RNLI and Kent Air Ambulance.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**VACANCY** The Friars in Aylesford have a vacancy for a lay sacristan. This full time position requires working five days a week, including weekends. Applicants need to be flexible, organised and a good communicator with some computer skills and experience/knowledge of sacristy work. The role is physically demanding. There is a notice on the board in the porch and the closing date for applications is 9th August.

**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: 020 8672 2422, or email: book-

shop@cectootingbec.org.uk. (Fr Geoffrey has a copy.)

**CAFOD** We have received a letter from CAFOD thanking us for £158.27 which came out of the wall box. They pointed out that our gifts enable CAFOD to support communities that struggle with severe water shortages. A nurse practitioner in Nigeria's Mabudi district says most cases of sickness reported to the local clinic were water related, and that he has noticed a significant reduction in cases of diarrhoea and typhoid since a CAFOD project started.

**ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE** Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Aylesford Priory, for an hour from 8.20pm in the Relic Chapel, on Thursday 6th August (with refreshments available afterwards). "In remembering the past, we commit ourselves to the future." (*Pope John-Paul II, speaking at Hiroshima*). Please join in prayer as world leaders renew efforts to reduce the nuclear stockpile.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: A GOD WHO CARES** One of the most striking aspects of the gods of ancient peoples is that they inspired fear. It's a common feature in these ancient deities that they had to be avenged. They were a moody lot. So it was quite common for some enormous sacrifice to be made in order to appease them and prevent them from venting their spleen on those who were unfortunate enough to be their subjects and followers. When Moses came back down the mountain it must have come as a relief to the Hebrews to find out what sort of God they had made a deal with. One who would keep them under his thumb or one who would let them grow? People who don't believe in God often find it necessary to lampoon the God they don't believe in. So they invent a ludicrous image and then proceed to knock it down with ei-

ther sarcasm or humour. Christians would probably be content with a God who as creator was responsible for the wonderful world we live in and for the gift of life that we all enjoy. If we could have a God who was also just and not given to flights of angry vengeance then that would be a bonus. To have a God who took time off from holding the universe together and occasionally showed that he knew of our world's existence would be like winning the lottery. Of course, having a God who was personally interested in each of us would presumably be out of the question? Surely God has got more important things to do than be concerned about me as an individual with all my likes and dislikes, my wants and needs? So when God speaks in today's scripture about shepherding his flock and taking care of them, and when Jesus feels sorry for his listeners and takes pity on them for they're like sheep without a shepherd, what's going on? Is it a lie? A joke? Or do I need to look again at the type of God we've got?

**ATTENDANCE 373** people came to Mass last weekend, and the collection came to **£552.84** - thank you. ♦ The retiring collection for the Apostleship of the Sea came to **£276.60**. ♦ Next week is the Day for Life and there will be a retiring collection. Envelopes and leaflets are on the windowsill in the porch. ♦ We gratefully acknowledge an anonymous donation of **£500** for the Building Fund. ♦ Fr Patrick McCallion has written thanking us for the cheque for **£422.37** received (sent belatedly) as a result of the mission appeal in May: 'please pass on my sincere gratitude to the parish community for all their prayers, donations and encouragement.'

**50/50 CLUB** M. Atkinson won £50 with ticket number 97.