

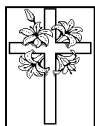
✕ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY (B) ✕

Sun 26	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Giuseppe Vitalo and Helena Cecy RIP <i>Baptisms of Brendan, Christel, Grant and Pomeroy</i>
Mon 27	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Special Intention
Tue 28	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Francesco Verdolini RIP
Wed 29	St Martha	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Franco Verdolini RIP
Thu 30	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Angela Santullo RIP
Fri 31	St Ignatius of Loyola	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
Sat 1st August	St Alphonsus de Liguori	10.00am	✕ Mass: Cristina Caputo & Giuseppe Larini RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

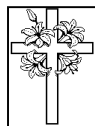
✕ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (B) ✕

Sun 2	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Sean Kavanagh RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Dominico Vella RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Baptisms of Felicity, Victor and Letitia</i>
		4.00pm	<i>Benediction</i>

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



Giovanni De Fazio, Margaret Finlayson, Nora Percival, Micky Docherty, Agnes Starck, Alma Wilkie, James Fertnig, Sarah Southey, Patrick Murphy, Norah Harris, Maureen Drake and Maureen Parry.



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 Priest Fr Geoffrey Pointer
 Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468

26th July 2009

✕ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY ✕

WORD of GOD

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them to all who were sitting ready.

(John 6:11)



WORD for TODAY

Whatever we think our needs are, however complicated our situation, God's love for us can cover all things.

There is no limit to God's generosity, for even after 5,000 had been fed there were still twelve baskets of leftovers.

DAY FOR LIFE (July 26th)

In recent years the Church has dedicated the fourth Sunday in July as the Day for Life. On this day we celebrate the dignity of life from conception to natural death and this year we focus on the theme of suicide. The main emphasis of Day for Life in 2009 is on the pastoral dimensions of this difficult and sensitive subject.

The Church believes that every life is worth living and cares about the reasons why people contemplate suicide, including acute mental illness and the possible spiritual factors involved. We pledge ourselves to support all that the professional services can bring and hopefully help to reduce the stigma too often associated with mental illness and depression.



Building upon last year's focus on mental health, the bishops hope that this year's day with its particular focus on suicide will help raise awareness of the vital role played by families and a supportive parish community in supporting and sustaining those who may be struggling to cope.

AROUND the PARISH

MY DAY BY DAY for August is now available on the table in the porch. These little booklets give the daily Mass readings and a 'Thought for the Day' quotation.

HOLIDAYS If you are holidaying in the British Isles 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 next 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.

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.

LOOKING 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.

NATIVITY CRIBS Christmas may seem a long way off but if you would like a Crib for your home for Christmas now is the time to order one. The repository organisers have a catalogue, so do visit the repository after Mass, and if you order a crib please leave your name and telephone number.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

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.

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.

HOPE FOR A NEW BEGINNING a beginning experience weekend for the widowed, separated and divorced at Aylesford Priory 25-27 September. Beginning experience is a ministry led by a trained team of volunteers. Their work is carried out at special weekend gatherings which encourage participants to share their need and deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. Contacts: Ruth, 0208 8679 7157, Sandra, 01293 783965 or Susan, 01227 264961. For further details please see the poster in the porch.

St THERESE of LISIEUX The relics of St Thérèse will be visiting Aylesford Priory from 9th to 11th October. The relics will be placed in the Relic Chapel and people are invited to process past the casket. They may reverently touch the casket if they wish, and bring to God through the intercession of St Thérèse whatever intentions they have. Although the accent is on enabling people to spend time in silent prayer, drawing closer to God through this unique opportunity, there will also be liturgies and times of guided prayer. For full details of events please take a brochure from the Porch.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TRAINING Parish bereavement ministry is a befriending service to those who have experienced loss. If you are interested there is a training weekend on 30th October to 1st November at Aylesford Priory. Fr Geoffrey has the details.

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: bookshop@cectooting-bec.org.uk. (Fr Geoffrey has a copy.)

FAITH IN FOCUS: SHAPES AND PATTERNS A famous scholar once wrote a book nearly 800 pages long after reading today's gospel. When he read the account of the feeding of the 5,000 he noticed there was a shape or pattern to what Jesus did that was reflected elsewhere, particularly at the Last Supper. And then he went on to discover that this pattern would shape the liturgy for centuries to come. He pointed out that there was a four-fold shape to the actions of Jesus: Jesus took bread, said a blessing, broke it and then gave it out to be distributed. He then looked at the account of the Last Supper and found that the same structure (this time with the wine too) underlay Jesus' actions. When he went to

St Paul's writings he discovered that this pattern was there too: take, bless, break and give. Because of this he was able to trace the way Christians had celebrated eucharist over the centuries. We take bread and wine which are brought up from the people and presented at the altar where they are prepared. Although some people refer to this as the offertory, these gifts are not in fact offered until later in the eucharist. When the gifts have been taken, a blessing is pronounced (the Eucharistic Prayer) praising and thanking God and asking that by the power of the Holy Spirit they may become the body and blood of Christ. Shortly before communion the bread is broken (that's why the priest does not break it during the Eucharistic Prayer) in preparation for the eucharistic meal. Finally, the bread and wine (the body and blood of Christ) is given to those who come forward to share communion. Take, bless, break and give: actions of Jesus that would shape the liturgy for years to come. As the gifts are presented we are invited to bring our lives before God to be transformed; as the blessing is said we are encouraged to praise and thank God for his presence in our lives; as the bread is broken we renew our commitment to give ourselves to the very end in serving God; and as communion is given we are reminded that it is in giving ourselves to others that we become the very thing that we receive: the Body of Christ.

ATTENDANCE Last week we welcomed 373 people to Our Lady of Gillingham. The collection came to **£662.28**, and we also received **£30** for the Building fund. We are grateful for the continued support for both the running of the parish and for building fund donations which will go towards the extensive repairs and renovations which are urgently needed. This week there is a retiring collection for Day for Life - envelopes and leaflets are on the windowsills in the porch.