

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 1st AUGUST 2010

✕ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✕

Sun 1	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Charles and Lucia Swan <i>Baptism of Reuben Atimomo</i>
		4.00pm	<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>
Mon 2	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Cristina Caputo & Giuseppe Larini RIP
Tue 3	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Gladys Long RIP
Wed 4	St John Vianney	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Special Intention
Thu 5	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Mariea Lee RIP
Fri 6	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Stephen Regan RIP
		12.45pm	✕ Requiem Mass: Joyce Hector
Sat 7	Our Lady	10.00am	✕ Mass: Gladys Long RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

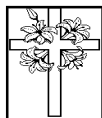
✕ NINETEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✕

Sun 8	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Simone Antonio
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Biggs RIP
		12noon	<i>Baptism of George Harwood</i>

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:

Maureen Parry, Domenico Vella, Eileen Sanderson,
Paul Appleton, James Colgan, Gladys Wood, Martin Longland,
Philip Malone, Lillian D'Souza, James McCartney,
Thelma Perris, Bernadette Southern, Angela Dine,
Gladys Long and Cassandra Eden.

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



OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM

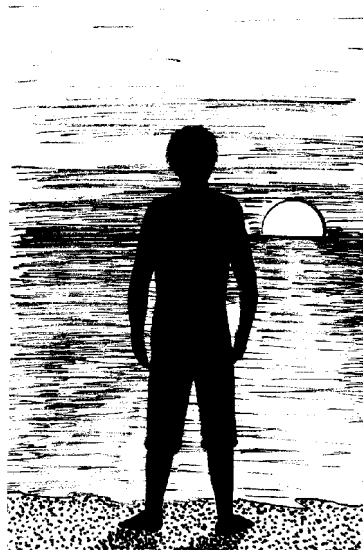


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Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

1st August 2010

Registered Charity 235468

✕ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✕



WORD OF GOD

Vanity of vanities,
the Preacher says.
Vanity of vanities.
All is vanity!

(Ecclesiastes 1:2)

WORD FOR TODAY

Do you ever feel that there's got to be more to life than meets the eye? Living, working, earning, saving, spending...is this what it's all about? Or is there some deeper meaning and purpose to our time on earth? That's the question which Ecclesiastes asks us today.

SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT...

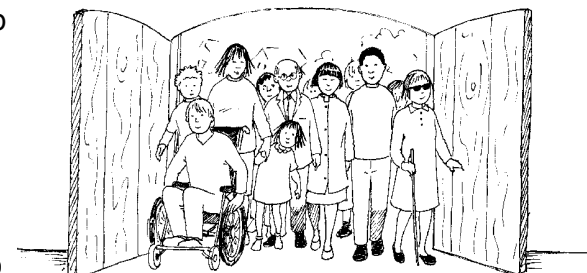
We can join Pope Benedict in his prayer intentions for the month of August:

General:

That those who are without work or homes or who are otherwise in serious need may find understanding and welcome, as well as concrete help in overcoming their difficulties.

Missionary:

That the Church may be a home for all people, ready to open its doors to anyone suffering from racial or religious discrimination, hunger, or wars that force them to emigrate to other countries.



AROUND the PARISH

YOUNG PARISHIONERS The Children's Liturgy at 9.30 Mass is closed for the summer break. We begin again on 5th September.

FINANCE COMMITTEE A reminder to members of the committee that there is a follow-up meeting this Monday evening (2nd) at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

TRIP to JOSS BAY, NEXT SUNDAY

There are still a limited number of seats available on the coach, which will leave the church after the 9.30 Mass. Make the most of the summer weather and enjoy a day out. The cost for adults is £6, and £3 for children under 15 years. If you would like to go, please phone John Formosa on 573378.

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 this month. Sorry it didn't work out.

THE LEGION of MARY visits anyone in the parish who is sick, housebound or lonely. If you know of someone who would like a visit, please ring Mary Bishop on 234039. The Legion meets every Friday afternoon in the Parish Centre from 2 to 3pm for prayer and reflection, and welcomes anyone who would like to drop in.

GOING AWAY? Remember that we have a directory in the office of all the Catholic Churches in England and Wales, or you can visit <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic->

[Church/The-Church-in-England-and-Wales/Dioceses](#). When you get back you can catch up with all the parish news by taking a back issue of the newsletter from the box just inside the sacristy door.

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) which has been especially created to promote, 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. **Please listen out at Mass for important information about booking tickets to the event in Hyde Park; the deadline for such bookings being this coming Monday.**

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

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, tel. 07521 519482.

DAY WITH MARY PILGRIMAGE to

ITALY 8-15th September. For details please see the notice in the porch.

CAFOD SUPPORTERS' DAY 11th September from 10am to 2.30pm in the Amigo Hall (on the right hand side of the main door of St George's Cathedral). A day when CAFOD supporters can hear first-hand accounts of the work which is being done in Rwanda. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be provided but bring your own packed lunch. See the notice in the porch or email Southwark@cafod.org.uk.

DIOCESAN DAY of PRAYER Saturday 9th October in St George's Cathedral. A day of renewal starting at 9.30am and finishing at 4.45pm. For details see the notice on the board.

FAITH IN FOCUS: WHAT'S THE POINT? "Vanity of vanities!" is a famous quotation from the bible, but what does it mean? It's the preacher's way in the Book of Ecclesiastes of saying that life seems "meaningless" or "pointless". What's it all about? It's certainly not fair and it seems to take all my time and energy and keep me to the grindstone. A radio pundit the other day said that there should be more love shown in the work place, because love makes us more productive and that way we will earn more money. Is that the point of life, money? And what's the point of stashing money away when your children and grandchildren will only fritter it away after you've gone? Is it worth the hard work and the restless nights worrying about it, asks our reading today? There's nothing fundamentally wrong with our world; God made it and it's good. But if we limit our sights only to the things of this world then we won't see very far. We'll get bogged down in its limitations; our lives will not reflect

anything other than our career prospects, our bank balances, our reputations and our comfort. Our cultural horizons will hit the buffers at celebrity, gossip, fashion and trivia, while our significant relationships will be virtually found on Facebook and Twitter. What makes us tick? What are our values and are any of them transcendent? Do they go beyond the make-up and greasepaint, beyond simply following the crowd in its dream of success? The preacher in today's scripture obviously feels that life can be meaningless unless we have a clear idea about the reason we are on this earth. Without such a spiritual compass we are at the whim of a pointless merry-go-round that seems to take more out of us than it gives. So what's the driving force in your life? What makes you want to jump out of bed in the morning and confront the world and all its challenges? What motivates you to keep on going and to make your mark? Given that life is short, what makes it worth living? When today's psalmist came to answer these questions, he put it very simply: Make us know the shortness of our life/that we may gain wisdom of heart/O Lord, you have been our refuge/from one generation to the next. For life to be meaningful we all need a goal. What's yours?

ATTENDANCE Last week, the start of the school holidays, Mass attendance was down to **326**. We received **£554.19** in the offertory collection. Our barbecue was well organized and supported and everyone seemed to have a good time. Our thanks to the hard-working team of helpers both at the charcoal face and in the kitchen. We made a profit for the parish Building Fund of **£404.60**.