

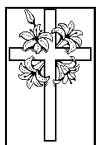
✂ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (B) ✂

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>
Mon 3	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✂ Mass: Gladys Long RIP
Tue 4	St John Mary Vianney	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✂ Mass: Mariea Lee RIP
Wed 5	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✂ Mass: In Thanksgiving
Thu 6	✂ The Transfiguration ✂	7.00am	✂ Mass: Stephen Regan RIP
Fri 7	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✂ Mass: Gladys Long RIP
Sat 8	St Dominic	10.00am	✂ Mass: David Creedon RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

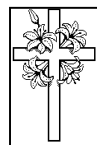
✂ NINETEENTH SUNDAY (B) ✂

Sun 9	Saturday	6.30pm	✂ Vigil Mass: Mary Biggs RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✂ Mass: Antony Veale RIP
		11.00am	✂ Mass: Pro Populo
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Joshua Ford</i>

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



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, Cassandra Eden, Mary Biggs and Antonio Simone.



*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

2nd August 2009

✂ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY ✂

**WORD of GOD**

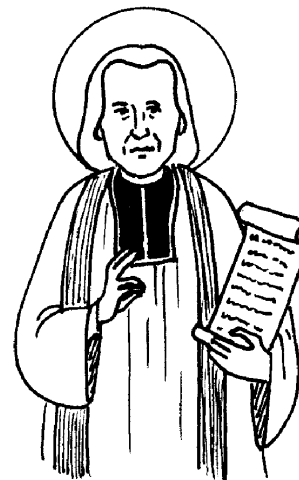
I tell you solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.

(John 6:26)



**WORD for TODAY**

Why do we practise our faith? Why do we follow Christ? Is it because we think that some sort of eternal life insurance policy is worth having just in case? Or is it because we have seen the signs, as Jesus says, and realise that our faith gives meaning to our lives on earth?



**THE CURÉ OF ARS (4th August)**

The Curé of Ars has a romantic ring to it. In fact, the phrase simply means the parish priest of the village of Ars. St John Vianney occupied this position in the early part of the nineteenth century. Because of the French Revolution there was widespread ignorance about the Catholic faith. John Vianney applied himself to the task of gradually bringing his parishioners back to God. He was known for the many sympathetic hours he spent in the confessional and he soon gained a reputation for being an outstanding pastor. The village of Ars became once more a thriving parish. He died in 1859 aged 73 and after his canonisation in 1925 was recognised as patron saint of parish priests.

## AROUND the PARISH

**PHONE MAST** The parents and children from St Mary's School, have been holding a campaign against Vodafone for erecting a 3G mast right next to the school. A protest march through the High Street, attended by the MP for Gillingham and the three local ward councillors, received a lot of publicity. Also at this week's council meeting a group of parents and children presented a petition to the council in support of a council resolution asking Vodafone to remove the mast.

**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.

**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.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**MGR RICHARD MOTH** Vicar General to the Diocese, has been appointed by Pope Benedict to be Bishop to the Forces, in succession to Bishop Tom Burns, who is now Bishop of Menevia. Archbishop Kevin invites us all to join him in congratulating Mgr Richard on this appointment. The Archbishop expresses his personal thanks and appreciation for Mgr Moth's generosity and hard work. His ordination will take place on 29th September and further details will be sent out in due course. We are asked to keep him in our prayers as he prepares for his Episcopal Ordination.

**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.

**A DAY WITH MARY** Saturday 22nd August at St Augustine's Abbey in Ramsgate. Commencing 10am with tea and coffee in the hall and finishing with Vespers at 5.30pm. For further details there is a notice in the porch.

**The DOWRY of MARY PILGRIMAGE** to Walsingham will be on Sunday 6th September, led by his Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor. Commencing 11.30 with a welcome and reception of the Flags, followed by Mass and finishing with a procession to the Priory grounds for Benediction at 3.15. See the poster in the porch.

**IF YOU LIKE MUSIC** there is a new album from the Carmelite Friars at Aylesford. See the poster in the porch.

**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.

**OBERRAMMERGAU 2010** Camino Journeys to Holy Places are already taking bookings for next year. There is a small notice on the board with full details.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: MIXED MOTIVES** Have you ever wondered why people practise the religion they do? Take Christianity, for example. The essence of Christianity is love of God through love of neighbour. In other words to be a Christian is to put others always before yourself. It means being at the service of whoever is in need. It's not rocket science to see that this approach to life is going to cause Christians a good deal of inconvenience, not to mention suffering and hardship at times. That's why one of Christianity's mottoes is about carrying your cross. A more natural way of life would be to feather your own nest, to make sure that you are well provided for and comfortable and then, if it took your fancy, to think about helping others, provided that they weren't too much of a nuisance. So why do we do what we do? Some people think

that religion is a sort of insurance policy that they take out to give themselves a soft landing in the afterlife. At best we can say that they see this way of living as qualifying them for eternal life. Their motivation is the reward of heaven. Other individuals have ulterior motives for practising their religion. Sometimes these are harmless, like enjoying the company of other people or feeling good after a good Church sing-along. Not so helpful ulterior motives could be the desire to be seen as part of the religious community for social reasons, to get votes in an election or to increase the sales of your ironmongery business. This is to use religion for other purposes. Of course, there are folk who espouse Christianity because they are absolutely convinced by the teaching of Jesus; it makes sense of life here and now and it offers the best chance of living life to the full. They can see the wisdom of it all and can appreciate what God is promising on both sides of the grave. In today's gospel Jesus looks at the crowd and sees all the above types of people: those who believe because they have seen the signs and those who believe because they have had all the bread they wanted to eat. Which are you?

**ATTENDANCE** Last week **443** people attended Mass here - a very welcome number. We received **£551.26** in the collection, and the retiring collection for Day for Life came to **£148.25**. Returned APF boxes yielded **£67.38**. If you have recently returned one of these boxes, please collect the empty from the high windowsill right at the back of the porch. We also gratefully acknowledge an anonymous donation of **£100** to our building fund - we really appreciate the support which the parish family is giving to our church - our home. Finally the Gift Aid Tax refund this year amounted to **£7,065.35**. Once the diocesan commission (£565.22) and cost of envelopes (£265.20) were deducted the parish received a cheque for **£6,234.93**.