

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 8th AUGUST 2010

✧ 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>
Mon 9	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✧ Mass: Tom Mahoney RIP
Tue 10	St Lawrence	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✧ Mass: Anthony Veale RIP
Wed 11	St Clare	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✧ Mass: Arthur Ryan RIP
Thu 12	Feria	7.00am	✧ Mass: Winifred Brown RIP
Fri 13	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✧ Mass: Mr and Mrs Lennon RIP
Sat 14	St Maximilian Kolbe	10.00am	✧ Mass: Jane Hartnell RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

✧ THE ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ✧

Sun 15	Saturday	6.30pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✧ Mass: Salvatore and Rosaria Formosa RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Matt Dzikowski</i>
		4.00pm	✧ Mass: for the Malayalm Community

Please pray for Deacon Keith Morris and Kathleen Murphy, recently dead, and for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Mary Biggs, Antonio Simone, Marie Smith, Mary Jones, Anthony Veale, Ann Brunt, George Perry, Fr Ryszard Serafin and Rose Venables.



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
 Website: www.ourladyofgillingham.org
 Parish Priest Fr Geoffrey Pointer
 Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

8th August 2010

Registered Charity 235468

✧ NINETEENTH SUNDAY (C) ✧

WORD OF GOD

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. (Hebrews 11:1)

WORD FOR TODAY

What type of faith do you have? Is it a once-and-for-all leap in the dark that is prepared to hope against hope come what may? Is it adherence to a strong code of beliefs? Or is it attentive listening to what the word of God is whispering in your ear? And how does your faith, of whatever type, affect your life?



CHEQUERED SAINT (9th August)



St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross was born as Edith Stein in 1891 in what was then Germany but now is Poland. She was the youngest of seven children born into a Jewish family. By the age of 13 she had lost interest in the Jewish faith. A bright student at university, she met many Catholic friends and she became interested in Catholicism and was baptised in 1922. 12 years later she became a Carmelite nun and was first a teacher in Speyer and then a lecturer in Munich. With the rise of Hitler she had to be smuggled out of Germany; being both Catholic and Jewish made her vulnerable. She was taken to the Netherlands but when the German army took the country she was discovered and sent with her sister to Auschwitz where on this day in 1942 she was gassed in the ovens. Pope John Paul II canonised her in 1998. This is one of the prayers she made in the midst of her complex life:

O my God, fill my soul with holy joy, with courage and strength to serve you. Enkindle your love in me and then walk with me along the next stretch of road before me. I do not see very far ahead, but when I have arrived where the horizon now closes down, a new prospect will open before me, and I shall meet it with peace.

AROUND the PARISH

DEACON KEITH MORRIS RIP

Deacon Keith died last Saturday aged 85 after faithfully serving as Permanent Deacon in our deanery for most of the last 28 years. His funeral is on Tuesday at St Thomas', Rainham at 10am. May he rest in peace. ✕ Please remember too Kathleen Murphy of Beatty Avenue who died last week. Her funeral will be at The Garden of England Crematorium, Bobbing, this Friday. Her husband William's funeral took place here in April. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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.

THE CATHOLIC COMPANION

This is a very readable little magazine, which has items of interest for the whole family. The latest issue is on the table in the porch priced at only £1.

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. ♦ Thank you to those who have booked places at the Hyde Park event. Our special thanks to Deacon Michael and Gillian for organizing the bookings.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

DAY WITH MARY PILGRIMAGE to ITALY 8th-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: THAT'S WHAT I CALL FAITH! Tom Wheeler had no doubts about his faith. He was an active member of his local church and very well known in the wider community as the owner of a string of used car salesrooms. He was happily married and had four healthy and bright children. In his heart of hearts he knew that he owed his wealth, health and happiness to his faith. Often at prayer meetings he stood up to witness that the Lord has promised milk and honey to those who believe in him. And

Tom was convinced that he was living proof of the way that the Lord rewards faith. Adeola Yeboah was a local schoolteacher. She lamented the demise of the catechism and the knowledge of faith that it imparted. For faith is surely about believing a set of doctrines? She was a faithful member of the Christian Evidence Association and would often be seen on Saturday mornings in the High Street on her little soapbox, witnessing to her faith and handing out leaflets about the true teaching of the Church. Jose Gonzalez was an inspiration to some and a puzzle to others. For him faith was a leap in the dark and on several occasions he had been at the helm of initiatives that put the fear of God into less brave souls. His sponsored

walk up Everest left him with frost-bite and only four toes, but in fairness his Send a Goat to the Missions scheme did apparently meet with a good deal of success. Nobody doubted that Suna Murati was a woman of faith. She was part of the furniture at the parish church and her rosary beads were almost worn out. Sometimes her zeal would embarrass others, especially when

she went into raptures about recent apparitions in Eastern Europe and her attempts to get them officially recognised by the Church. Such was her broad faith that it even stretched to the Zen coffee mornings

and consulting runes, but she drew the line at tree-hugging. Our reading from Hebrews today tells us, "It was for faith that our ancestors were commended". Which of the above four types of faith would you most like to have? Or would you prefer another?

ATTENDANCE Last week we welcomed **420** people to our church, and we received **£615.40** in the offertory; thank you.

THE LAST WORDS . . .

Faith is a bird that feels dawn breaking and sings while it is still dark.

(Rabindranath Tagore)

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. *(Augustine)*

I do not pray for success; I ask for faithfulness. *(Mother Teresa)*

