

✘ **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>
Mon 10	St Lawrence	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Francesco Verdolini RIP
Tue 11	St Clare	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Eugenio Grosso
Wed 12	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
10.00am		✘ Mass: Winifred Brown RIP	
Thu 13	Feria	7.00am	✘ Mass: Mr & Mrs Lennon RIP
Fri 14	St Maximilian Kolbe	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Giovanni Caporiccio RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Marriage: Simon Thomas &amp; Siobhan Morrissey</i>
Sat 15	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
		3.00pm	<i>Baptism of Fionntan McManus</i>

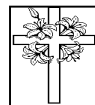
✘ **The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** ✘

Sun 16	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: In Thanksgiving
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Prop Populo
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP <i>Baptism of Jeremy Wangoto</i>
		12noon	<i>Baptism of Michael Dunka</i>
		4.00pm	✘ Mass for the Malayalam community

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



Marie Smith, Mary Jones, Anthony Veale, Ann Brunt, George Perry, Fr Ryszard Serafin, Rose Venables, Stella Turner, Edmund Hubbert and Holly Keogh.



*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 —

9th August 2009

✘ **NINETEENTH SUNDAY** ✘

**WORD of GOD**

I am the bread of life.  
 Your fathers ate the manna in the desert  
 and they are dead;  
 but this is the bread that comes down from  
 heaven,  
 so that a man may eat it and not die.  
*(John 6:48-50)*



**WORD for TODAY**

What Jesus promises to those who eat his flesh  
 and drink his blood is satisfaction: they will never  
 be hungry or thirsty again. The message of Je-  
 sus is not a passing fad but a perennial promise  
 of deep down satisfaction, the foretaste of eternal  
 life.



**MAXIMILIAN KOLBE (14th August)**

Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish priest who died as a prisoner in Auschwitz, on 14th August 1941. When a prisoner escaped from the camp, the Nazis selected ten others to be killed by starvation in reprisal for the escape. One of the ten selected to die, Franciszek Gajowniczek, began to cry: "My wife! My children! I will never see them again!" At this Father Kolbe stepped forward and asked to die in his place, and his request was granted. As the ten condemned men were led off to the death block, Father Kolbe supported a fellow prisoner who could hardly walk. No one would emerge alive, and Father Kolbe was the last to die. He was beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1970, and canonised as a martyr by Pope John Paul II in 1981.

## **AROUND the PARISH**

**QUIZ NIGHT** on Saturday 22nd August at 7.30pm in the McMahon Hall. This is to be held by the Knights of St Columba - sausage and chips provided but bring your own drink. Entrance fee £5 and all proceeds to go towards our Building Fund.

**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.

**A GHANA DIARY** In light of Fr Joseph's recent (albeit brief) visit to us, Fr Geoffrey was persuaded to share his thoughts from his first visit to Ghana in 2001. They will be published on the parish website in weekly chunks from this week. It is a good read, and details the curious goings-on from his trip. You can find the diary every week on Fr Geoffrey's 'PPLog'.

**NEWSLETTERS** A reminder that if you are away one weekend you can keep up to date with all the parish news. Back issues of the newsletter are in a box just inside the sacristy door, and are available on the parish website - please help yourself.

**LEGION OF MARY** The Legion carries out much of the 'behind the scenes' pastoral work of the Church, and is always ready to welcome new members. Meetings are in the presbytery (2A Ingram Road) so if you are interested please feel free to come along at 10.30am on any Thursday. Meetings generally last about an hour.

## **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 at 11.30am at Westminster Cathedral. We are asked to keep him in our prayers as he prepares for his Episcopal Ordination.

**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.

**'IN TOUCH'** is a scheme for the elderly and those with physical disabilities. Security equipment, minor repairs and adaptations to the home can be made. To find out more call 01474 535298 or email [medwayhia@intouchsupport.co.uk](mailto:medwayhia@intouchsupport.co.uk).

**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.

**OBERAMMERGAU 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: INDIGESTION?** You'd think, wouldn't you, that after performing the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus would have been fairly confident about getting the crowd to believe what he was teaching? Such a huge-scale miracle would surely have set tongues wagging and he would have been on a shoe-in when it came to street credibility. Yet moments after eating the food, the crowd start questioning Jesus' status. We know who he is, so how can he claim to have come down with food from heaven? More is to follow in the next few Sundays as they go off and abandon him. They may have had their fill but indigestion has set in. Jesus has strong words for the crowd. He tells them to stop moaning and he accuses them of missing the whole point of his teaching because they are more concerned about the free meal than about its meaning.

What Jesus told them, and is telling us today, is that the food which he offers is a food that will satisfy at the deepest possible level. His teaching is no passing fad that will be popular for a few years and then pass into history; it is the message of eternal life. It is what we need if we are to stop merely breathing and start the business of living. It's the difference between mere existence and glorious life. Your fathers ate manna in the desert, he tells the crowd, and they are now dead. But if you eat my flesh then you will live for ever. Yes, you will suffer human death but you will transcend it. Christians believe that this invitation involves a number of things. Clearly it refers to eating and drinking at the eucharist. By so doing we unite ourselves to Christ and we form a body of believers sharing communion among each other. We become what we eat: the Body of Christ. We sign on the dotted line to be like Christ to others as members of his Church on earth. But first we have to make sure we have received the message of Jesus that comes from his word. Our sharing communion, our accepting to eat and drink the food of life, means first listening to the scriptures. Only when we are formed by the word of God are we ready to eat and drink. Like the crowd in today's gospel, if we rush straight in to the meal, we may end up full. And that's when the indigestion starts.

**ATTENDANCE** We welcomed 353 people to our Parish Church last weekend and received £472.89 in the collection. The **50/50** Club winner for July was P. Hardy with ticket number 141 - this yielded a prize of £50. Subscriptions are being collected this weekend. We have also received £31.20 from the last time the paper skip was emptied.

**THE LAST WORD...** If it weren't for the optimist, the pessimist would never know how happy he wasn't. (*Amos Hindmarsh*)