

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 24th April 2011**

✠ **EASTER SUNDAY** ✠

**The RESURRECTION of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (A)**

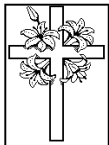
<b>Sun 24</b>	Saturday	8.30pm	✠ Easter Vigil Mass: Canon Thomas McMahon RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Dec'd Members McCullough fam
<b>Mon 25</b>	Easter Monday	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Gelsi Antonietta
<b>Tues 26</b>	Easter Tuesday	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Jane Saunders RIP
		12noon	✠ Funeral Mass: Mary O'Neill
<b>Wed 27</b>	Easter Wednesday	10.00am	✠ Mass: Casella Palma RIP
<b>Thu 28</b>	Easter Thursday	7.00am	✠ Mass :Ciaran Duffy RIP
<b>Fri 29</b>	Easter Friday	10.00am	✠ Mass: Luigi Simone
<b>Sat 30</b>	Easter Saturday	10.00am	✠ Mass: Thanksgiving
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
		1.00pm	<i>Marriage: James Rowlands &amp; Sara Norris</i>

✠ **SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER** ✠

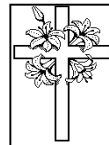
**Divine Mercy Sunday (A)**

<b>Sun 1</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Ciaran Michael Hicks</i>
		4.00pm	<i>May Devotions</i>

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Nellie Moss, Allana Smith, Thomas Rowley, John McCann, Derry Roach, Janet Breen, Desmond Stynes, Una Welch, Laurence Turner, Doreen McCormick, Joele Wilcox, Stefan Szemelak and Jane Liston.



*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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 Website: [www.ourladyofgillingham.org](http://www.ourladyofgillingham.org)  
 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—

24th April 2011

✠ **EASTER SUNDAY** ✠

**The RESURRECTION of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Mass Book: (Easter Vigil) p105ff, (Easter Day) p128ff

**WORD of GOD**

They killed Jesus  
 by hanging him on a tree,  
 yet three days afterwards  
 God raised him to life.



*(Acts 10:39-40)*

**WORD for TODAY**

Our God has triumphed over the powers of darkness as Jesus is raised from death itself. From now on there is no evil which can ever hold permanent sway over us, for we share in the victory of Christ over all that would make us less than human. Christ is risen indeed and we share his new life.

**Easter Day:**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 117**

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!



**Divine Mercy Sunday** If you haven't had a chance to make your yearly confession, don't miss out on this great opportunity because next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. What our Church is offering next week is called a Plenary Indulgence. In very simple terms this means that if we make a sincere sacramental confession and then receive Holy Communion we can obtain the complete and total forgiveness of all sins and all punishment. Confessions (Reconciliation) we be heard next Saturday from 10.30 for as long as necessary. ■ Take a leaflet giving more information.

## **AROUND the PARISH**

**EASTER OCTAVE** This week is Easter Week: the solemn celebration of the Resurrection spills over this week into one continuous Solemnity of the Lord (a week of Sundays).

**THANK YOU!** Sincere thanks to those of you who worked solidly and quietly to ensure that our Holy Week and Easter ceremonies were prepared and celebrated with great dignity and devotion. And thank you to those who turned up over the three great days to make this a truly prayerful experience: the numbers this year were as good as ever. It was a particular joy to welcome once again so many of our Polish friends for the blessing of food on Holy Saturday morning. Our thanks to those who prepared the ceremony and those who read.

**EASTER EGG RAFFLE** The Winning Ticket numbers are: YELLOW 69, YELLOW 128, YELLOW 192 and PINK 678. Please come to the Sacristy or Office to collect your prize.

**MAY PROCESSION** takes place next Sunday, at 4pm beginning in the church, followed by tea, coffee cakes and biscuits in the McMahon Hall.

**MAY DANCE** will be on 7th May at 7.30pm. Hot and cold snacks will be served, please bring your own drinks. Admission is £5.00 on the door and all proceeds will go towards the building fund.

## **AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND**

**St JOHN FISHER SCHOOL** Our Catholic Comprehensive School in Chatham requires an examination invigilator (interviewing soon). See

the notice on the schools' board.

**A DAY WITH MARY** is to be held at the National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham on Sunday 29th May.

**DAY of REFLECTION** A special day entitled, "The Sacredness of the Human Heart" is to be held at Aylesford Priory on Saturday 11th June (10am-4pm) for carers of those suffering from dementia. An opportunity to reflect quietly and pray with others who have a similar ministry. Booking is essential as places are limited. Cost £15 including a buffet lunch. Contact Rev Ray or Mrs Elizabeth Partridge: email [e.partridge@hotmail.com](mailto:e.partridge@hotmail.com) or ring 01303 873835.

**MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL** Saturday 18th June, 3pm. Chief celebrant Archbishop Peter Smith. Couples celebrating their 1, 10, 25, 40, 50+ wedding anniversary are invited to apply for a personal invitation from the Archbishop to the annual Mass in celebration of marriage. They will be given preferential seating in the cathedral. There will be a reception after Mass. Application should be made through the parish priest by the end of April. This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.

**YOUTH FESTIVAL at AYLESFORD PRIORY** Sunday 26th June, 10am-8pm. Young people currently in school years 8-11 are invited to a day of varied activities, music and celebration of Mass. For further information, contact Southwark Catholic Youth Service on 01227 272900.

**BRIGHTLIGHTS FESTIVAL at**

**AYLESFORD PRIORY** 1st - 4th July. Join the Southwark Catholic Youth Service for the 3 day/night Catholic young adults festival for 16 - 30 year olds. A great weekend with a variety of prayer, bands, worship and international speakers. Consult [www.brightlights.org.uk](http://www.brightlights.org.uk).

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES** See the poster giving details of this year's pilgrimage from 19th-26th August. Details, together with this year's theme, may also be found on the Diocesan Website: [http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/lourdes\\_2011.html](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/lourdes_2011.html).

**FAITH IN FOCUS: ALIVE!** We can't begin to imagine what it must have been like for Christ's followers. They were faced with the fact that although he had been crucified and had died, he was now alive! The resurrection is a mind-boggling event. It means that the ultimate threat to humanity, death itself, no longer has power over us. That's because the resurrection is not something that just happened to Jesus. It reaches us too. For we Christians are now alive with a life that goes beyond mere human existence. We are alive in God through Jesus Christ. To live resurrection life means that we can believe. Life ceases to be futile. We have the faith to recognise that all creation comes from God and is redeemed by Christ's victory over death. We profess with our tongues and our lives that God is so concerned about us that he sent Jesus to show us how to live and how to usher in the

kingdom of God. To be alive with the life of the risen Jesus means that we are able to trust. Life ceases to be hopeless. We know that God did not abandon Jesus in his hour of need and will not abandon us either. The resurrection give us a confident expectation that wherever we turn we will find God at our side. Whatever our problem, God promises to be with us until the end of time. Our life will not end in the grave. Sharing the risen life of Jesus means that we can care. Life ceases to be noxious. God cared about us to the point of giving his all. We too can learn to care about others with a superhuman strength that is made possible only by God's grace. We can give our all, nothing held back, until it hurts. Believing, trusting, caring. This is how the resurrection changes us. We become more fully alive to ourselves and to God. Believing, trusting, caring: faith, hope and love. When we live these, then we are fully alive!

**ATTENDANCE** There were 499 people at Mass last week and we received **£1,278.54** in the collection; thank you. The Easter Collection this Sunday is your personal offering to your priest, not the usual Sunday collection (which covers parish expenses and does not go to the priest). Along with your Christmas Offering this collection is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. Please be as generous as your circumstances allow. Envelopes are available for your convenience.