

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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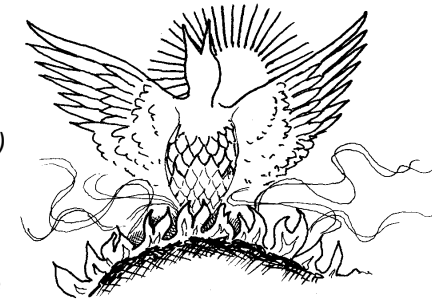
13th March 2011

✕ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕

WORD of GOD

As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

(Romans 5:19)

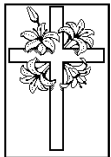


WORD for TODAY

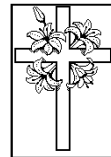
During Lent we follow Christ in his self-denial. We purge ourselves of all the obstacles we know get in the way of our being the sort of people God has called us to be. For by dying to self we will rise to a greater quality of life.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th March 2011			
✕ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 13	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Angela Partington RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
		12noon	<i>Baptism of Stephanie Oluwagbemisola</i>
Mon 14	Feria	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Philomena Breach RIP
Tues 15	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Joan Deere RIP
Wed 16	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Angiolina Fantetti RIP
Thu 17	St Patrick	7.00am	✕ Mass: Seamus McCullough
Fri 18	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Peter Gunthorpe RIP
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 19	St Joseph	10.00am	✕ Mass: Edna Nelson RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>
✕ SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 20	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Thomas Goldsmith RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Rita Keating RIP

Please pray for Joan Deere, recently dead; and for the *following* whose anniversaries occur this week:



*Thomas Smale, Francis Brincat, Bernice Flannery,
 Mary Mitchell, James Quirke, Charles Lay,
 Benamita Rebello, Rosaria Formosa,
 John O'Neill and John Harte.*



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



CAFOD LENT FAST DAY is this Friday, 18th March. Our faith tells us that Lent is a time for transformations. It's a time to look at our own lives and make changes which

bring us closer to God. But we don't have to stop there. This Lent, CAFOD is giving us the chance to create amazing transformations in the lives of other people too by praying, giving and taking action. Please take home and read the leaflet attached to the Fast Day envelope to see how you can make a difference to people like Amparo, an exceptionally brave and inspiring woman, whose picture is on the front of the envelope. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please gift aid your donation if possible.

AROUND the PARISH
EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

During Lent we are again exposing the Blessed Sacrament from after the Saturday morning Mass till about 11.15 when a simple blessing will be given with the Blessed Sacrament. In view of this there will be no monthly Benediction in March or April.

LENTEN RESOLUTIONS It was good to see so many at Mass on Ash Wednesday; let's see if we can go on as clearly we meant when we started. Here are a few suggestions for our Lenten resolutions: ✕ *Attend Mass another day during the week.* ✕ *Make the stations of the cross on Fridays.* ✕ *Choose your own method of fasting and self-denial.* ✕ *Make or increase your donation to those in need.* ♦ The Lenten Alms Box on the sanctuary is for the Cabrini Children's Society, or you may wish to donate to CAFOD or SVP by placing your offerings in one of the Box at the back of the church. † Canon Frank Moran, from Sheppey, will be hearing confessions on Saturday morning, 26th March.

CONGRATULATIONS to our children who celebrated their First Confessions yesterday (Saturday). Our thanks to Fr James for his help and to the catechists for preparing the children so well. Keep the children and their families in your prayers as they continue their preparations for First Holy Communion at the end of June.

EASTER GARDEN Come and have fun making an Easter Garden. Wednesday 6th April at 4pm in the McMahon Hall. All children welcome.

FUTURE PARISH EVENTS include May Procession (1st May); May Dance (7th May); Barbeque (12th June). Note these dates in your diaries and further

information will be available nearer the time.

READERS List for Holy Week and Easter are now in your pigeon-holes. Please check these as soon as possible to ensure you are available as required. Please let the office know if there are any dates or times you cannot do. Many thanks.

CTS BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS are available at the back of the church. They cover various topics around the Catholic faith and beyond. There are also prayer and Mass books available in various languages. Specifically at this time, there are books relating to Lent and Easter. Please take a look, money for purchases can be deposited in the red wall box marked 'papers' on the adjacent wall. Additionally, if there are any other publications that you would like us to purchase, please let us know.

SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS These vouchers are very useful to our schools. Please collect and place them in the box at the back of the church.

BAPTISM Please make initial enquiry to Deacon Michael after any Sunday Mass.

RED GATES have been left up by the Playgroup this weekend so they can be repaired. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

AROUND the DIOCESE
and BEYOND

A ONE DAY WORKSHOP on INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE The Christian Education Centre is hosting a one day workshop on inter-religious dialogue, inspired by the recent Bishops' Conference document '*Meeting God in Friend and Stranger*'. The day will be facilitated by Fr Michael Barnes SJ who has extensive experience in this

area. It will take place at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Road, London, SW17 8BS on **Saturday 9th April** between 10am and 3pm. Cost of the day is £10 per person. Please bring a packed lunch. For bookings and further details please contact Mary Boley at the CEC on 020 8672 7684/2422 or on office @cectootingbec.org.uk.

EMMAUS MEDWAY is part of the wider EMMAUS UK charity which offers homeless people a home, work and a chance to rebuild their lives in a supportive environment. Emmaus Medway is in the process of securing two properties; one to be used as a 'home' and the other as a shop in Medway. They are looking for volunteers to help in all sorts of practical ways, especially with the preparation of the shop unit and residential property ready for opening. They also need help from anyone with retail experience, who could assist in the shop once open. Richard Carrington or Timi Aladewolu would be glad to hear from anyone that would like to help. Please contact by telephone on 01634 892577, or email emmausmedway@gmail.com or write to Broadside, Leviathan Way, Chatham, ME4 4LL. A letter from the Charity has been posted on the noticeboard at the back of the church giving further details.

FAITH IN FOCUS: GIVE UP GIVING UP We can't help thinking of Lent as a time for "giving up" things. Ever since we were small we have been told that Lent is a time for giving up sweets, giving up watching TV, giving up cakes, giving up alcohol, giving up... There's nothing wrong with giving up things. It can be a good way of concentrating our minds on higher issues. Of course,

the bible warns us about giving up things whilst not doing anything about those in need. There's no point in doing without food and drink if you don't also clothe the naked and release the oppressed, says God. So what makes giving up good or bad is the motive behind it. But better than "giving up things" is "giving up self". Rather than miss out on the cinema, bypass the brandy or pass on the pudding, think of giving up something of your own self and handing it on to others. It doesn't take a genius to realise that if each one of us did one small thing to help a person in need during Lent, then we could do much to alleviate the plight of the naked and oppressed. For today's naked and oppressed are the homeless, those struggling to make ends meet, those who will die of starvation, those whose basic human rights are denied them, those who face the world alone and confused, and those who in, say Japan or Lybia, find it hard to survive. Our Lenten fast takes flesh if we are prepared to give something of ourselves to another person. It does not have to be someone thousands of miles away. Our giving can be a few minutes of "quality time" with a young person who feels that adults don't really care, or a visit to an elderly person who craves for human contact, the touch of a human hand and a chat with somebody who is bothered and who will listen. So, by all means, give something up for Lent. But like Christ who fasted for forty days in the desert, make it a gift of yourself.

ATTENDANCE Last week we received **£546** in the collection; the Children's Society collection came to **£143.57**; thank you. ♦ 50/50 Club is collecting for this month this weekend.