

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 21st FEBRUARY 2010

### ✘ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✘

<b>Sun 21</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Dec'd members Beare Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Jack Le Duc RIP
		4.00pm	✘ Mass: For the Malayalam Community
<b>Mon 22</b>	The Chair of St Peter	9.45am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Robert Plummer
<b>Tue 23</b>	Feria	<b>8.00am</b>	✘ Mass: Franco Verdolini RIP
<b>Wed 24</b>	Feria	9.45am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Martin McDonagh RIP
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Feria	7.00am	✘ Mass: Ken and Mary Snowball and family
<b>Fri 26</b>	Feria	9.45am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Katy McLelland RIP
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>Sat 27</b>	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Gladys Long RIP
		10.30am	Confessions and Exposition

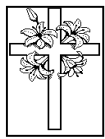
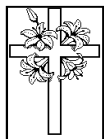
### ✘ SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✘

<b>Sun 28</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Elizabeth Starkey RIP and welfare of family.
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Prop Populo
		2.00pm	Baptism of Kiann Suba

Please pray for the repose of the souls of James Murphy, Ingeborg Sancto and Joyce Terry, recently dead; and for the following, with anniversaries this week:

Janet Matthews, Cecil Lee, Robert Plummer, Rosario Rubio, Maude Harris, Andrew Snowdon, Florence Newson and Margaret Wharfe.

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

Registered Charity 235468

21st February 2010

### ✘ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✘



#### WORD OF GOD

Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days.

(Luke 4:1-2)

#### WORD FOR TODAY

Jesus was tempted in all the classic areas: for possessions, for power for status. We too suffer the same fate as he did and we have the same chance to keep our sights not on what is fleeting and fickle, but on what endures and enriches.

#### LENT YEAR C

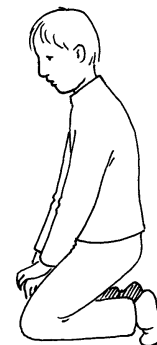
This year we are on the third year of our liturgical cycle, Year C. Every Lent has five weeks which precede Holy Week in the run-up to the greatest of all feasts: Easter. The first and second Sundays of Lent have virtually the same biblical theme in all three of the years: the first Sunday concentrates on the human side of Jesus and his temptations by the devil, while the second Sunday looks to his divinity as we see him transfigured on the mountain top. But it is the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent which provide the flavour of the individual year, and it is the themes of repentance and forgiveness that stand out clearly in Year C.

The third Sunday of Lent Year C sees the need for change here and now. Some terrible accidents had just claimed the lives of some local people and Jesus warns that we too may be living our last day today without realising it. There may be no chance to repent tomorrow. As with the unproductive fig tree, we may find ourselves cut down. Repentance can never be put off.

The fourth Sunday of Lent gives us one of the most moving stories of forgiveness in the whole bible: the Prodigal Son. The unconditional love of the father for his son mirrors that of God for us. God does not want to judge but to welcome sinners.

And the fifth and final Sunday of Lent sees the woman taken in adultery that everyone wanted to punish but whom Jesus refused to stone, leaving her with the relief of forgiveness and the second chance to start all over again.

Repentance and forgiveness: we have 40 days to enjoy the grace of preparing for Christ's resurrection and hearing his offer of eternal life. Have a happy Lent!



## AROUND the PARISH

**LENTEN RESOLUTIONS** Here are a few suggestions for our Lenten resolutions: Extra prayer. • Acts of kindness to others. • Forgiving someone who has wronged you. • Participating at church by volunteering. • Taking part more attentively at liturgy and Eucharist. • Giving our time in service. • Using the Sacrament of Reconciliation. • Acts of service and charity. • Giving money to people who are hungry or in need abroad. • Giving personal possessions to local people in need: clothes, books, shoes etc. ✕ In addition we can take part in Stations of the Cross in the church every Friday evening during Lent at 7.30. • The Lenten Alms Box, on the sanctuary, is for the Cabrini Children's Society, or you may wish to donate to CAFOD or SVP (the Poor box).

**NEW TO OUR PARISH?** If so, a very warm welcome! We would be grateful if you would fill in one of the forms on the windowsill at the back of the Church, and do introduce yourself to one of the clergy and/or parish helpers. We have tea and coffee in our hall after both Sunday morning Masses where there is a chance to sit and chat.

**PARISH CENSUS** If you have not yet filled in one of the census forms, please pick one up from the windowsill in the porch and after filling it in, hand it to any of the church helpers.

**GIFTS** for First Communion or Confirmation. We have a catalogue in the repository, but please do put your order in early to allow time for delivery.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** Please keep our children in your prayers as they make their preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which they will celebrate in the church on Saturday 6th March.

**QUIZ NIGHT** The Knights of Saint

Columba will be holding a Quiz Night next Saturday evening in the McMahon Hall at 7.30. Bring your own drink. Sausage and Mash provided. Tickets £5 each and all proceeds to go to the Building Fund.

**READERS** A provisional list of readers for Holy Week has now been drawn up. Would readers please check the pigeon holes in the sacristy to see if there is an envelope for them. If anyone is unable to read at the time requested, please arrange for a substitute and let the office know.

**CTS BOOKLETS** We have a new selection of titles available in the stand on the windowsill in the porch, particularly those appropriate to the season of Lent. There are also Lenten devotional booklets on the table with the newspapers.

**INDIAN INDULGENCE MEAL** The next one will be on Sunday 25th April.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS PANELS** *Appointment of Panel members.* On behalf of the governing bodies of Catholic Schools in the Diocese, the Diocesan Commission for School and Colleges is currently seeking volunteers to sit on appeals panels. These panels hear appeals from parents who have not been offered places for their children at their preferred school. The panels work to a Code of Practice to provide an independent forum for parents and school governing bodies to present their respective cases. Panel decisions are binding on school governing bodies and on parents. A list of members will be maintained by the Commission and training will be provided during March and April to those appointed to the list. Please contact the Commission for an application form and further information as soon as possible,

either email: office@rcsouthwark.org.uk, or phone 01689 829331. Completed application forms should be in by 8th March.

**CALLED to PRIESTHOOD?** If you are a young man who feel you are (or even if you're not sure) see the poster outlining various vocations days next month.

**MARRIAGE CARE** There is a Marriage preparation course on Sunday 7th March to be held at Maplesden Noakes School, Buckland Road, Maidstone; £55 per couple. An application form is available from the office.

**A DAY WITH MARY** We have received notices of the various *Day with Mary* events for this year, together with a poster of the various pilgrimages. These are displayed on the notice boards in the porch.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: JUST TESTING** We tend to think of temptation in terms of a sin magnet. It's the opposite pole to where we should be and like all magnetic opposites we're attracted to it even though we know it's wrong. The cake on the plate just seems to have a power that draws us; it attracts us because that's what temptation does. It surprises a lot of people that this is not really the meaning of temptation in the scriptures. The Greek word that we call temptation means something rather different. It means a "testing" or a "proving" of a person's fidelity, integrity, virtue or constancy. So if I tempt you, I'm not simply trying to get you to eat the cake; what I am really doing is measuring your ability to remain faithful to your principles, seeing whether you really are the person you claim to be. That's what the devil did with Jesus in the desert. He put him to the test by first getting him to doubt himself (offering him greater status and power) and then getting him to be over-confident

(jumping off the roof of the temple, sure that the angels would catch him). The point of this episode is not that Jesus didn't fancy jumping off. It's that he didn't allow himself to be deflected from being the person he knew he was. The devil tested him but Jesus didn't budge. In a strange way temptations can be constructive things because they can become growth points in our relationship with God and other people. I can "prove" my true qualities when I am offered the choice to reject God. Of course, it's important to remember that no temptation, however repulsive to us, is ever a sin. In order to redeem us, as a human being Jesus was tempted at the roots of our human nature and yet he never sinned. Temptation strengthened Jesus' resolve to carry out the mission he received from the Father. As we begin our Lenten journey this week can see temptations either as a threat to us or else as moments when we can reaffirm our commitment to following Christ. Why not put it to the test?

**ATTENDANCE** We welcomed **419** people to Mass last weekend. The offertory collection came to **£634.58**, and there was a total of **£130.49** in the retiring collection for the Cabrini Children's Society. We also received **£376.10** from Medway Council in three months' recycling credits for the newspapers, etc. we put in the skip (this in addition to the payments from Smurfit, the last collection yielding **£50.80**). • **NEXT FRIDAY** is Lent Fast Day and there are envelopes on the windowsill in which you can put the money saved by cutting back on luxuries for one day. • The winner of the 50/50 Club last month was Mrs Firth with ticket number 85; we received £43.50. February money will be collected after Masses this weekend.