

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 22nd AUGUST 2010

✘ TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY (C) ✘

Sun 22	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: In Thanksgiving
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Dec'd Members of Buck Family
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo <i>Baptism of Nzubechukwu Osunwa</i>
		12noon	<i>Baptism of Chinaza Ofoma</i>
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Natalia Przybyla</i>
Mon 23	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Intention of Weller Family
Tue 24	Saint Bartholomew	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Eileen Magee RIP
Wed 25	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Cosimo Larini RIP
Thu 26	Blessed Dominic Barbieri	7.00am	✘ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Fri 27	Saint Monica	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: John Luca Di Lisio RIP
Sat 28	Saint Augustine	10.00am	✘ Mass: Anna Azavedo RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

✘ TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY (C) ✘

Sun 29	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Welfare of John Cottiss
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Catherine Long RIP

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Pasquale Fantetti, Maria Gilbert, Juliano Bohnhoft, Maurice O'Connell, Jack Deere, John Slevin, Ruth Ireland, Royston Lewis, Cosimo Larini and William O'Grady.

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]

22nd August 2010

Registered Charity 235468

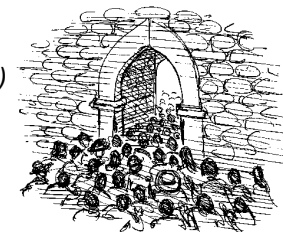
✘ TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY (C) ✘

WORD OF GOD

Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed. (Luke 13:24)

WORD FOR TODAY

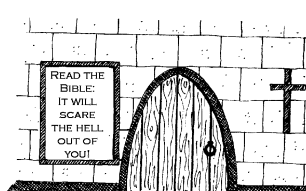
Christianity is not a club; it's the way the Church follows Christ. Yet we can't put restrictions on how God in Christ will view those who do not choose to follow Jesus or who know nothing about him. Nor can we be complacent about our right of entry into the kingdom of heaven.



CALL MY BLUFF

We continue our helping of trivia for you to take a look at. All you have to do is decide whether they are true or false. (We don't have all the answers.)

- *The longest name in the Bible is Mahershalalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:1).
- *The patron saint of dentists is St. Apollonia. She reportedly had her teeth pulled out in 249 AD by an anti-Christian mob.
- *The seven archangels are Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Henry, Chamuel, Jophiel, and Zadkiel.
- *The Seven Deadly Sins are ignorance, apathy, pride, anger, sloth, avarice and gluttony
- *The Seven Virtues are prudence, generosity, courage, temperance, justice, rejoicing and charity.
- *The shortest verse in the Bible consists of two words: "Jesus wept". (John 11:35).
- *The two robbers crucified next to Jesus were named Dismas and Gestas.
- *There are 49 different foods mentioned in the Bible.
- *Mabel was the wife of Moses.
- *The Bible was written by about 40 men over a period of about 1600 years dating from 1500 BC to about 100 years after Christ.



*The Three Wise Men from the East brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus. Frankincense is a gum resin used as a base for incense. Myrrh, also a gum resin, was valued as a perfume and an ointment used in embalming dead bodies.

- *The Bible never mentions that there were three wise men.
- *St Beryl is the patron saint of boring people.

AROUND the PARISH

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 next month. 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. There will also be a Catholic internet radio station broadcasting throughout the papal visit (www.heartgivesuntoheart.co.uk). ♦ Thank you to those who have booked places at the Hyde Park event. If you have any enquiries about the arrangements and about possible vacancies please ring Ann Fillery on 577625.

PAPAL VISIT: APPROVED PUBLICATIONS We are unable to stock or display all of the publications which the CTS have produced for the Papal Visit and for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman. There are catalogues and order forms on the table in the porch for anyone wishing to send off for a preferred publication.

WANTED If anyone has a small table top refrigerator they no longer need, please could they contact the church office. We also require an electric kettle. Appliances will need to be of a standard to pass electrical tests as they will be used in the sacristy.

The LEGION of MARY visits anyone in the parish who is sick, house-

bound 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.

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.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

PAKISTAN *Aid to the Church in Need* invites us to send a message of support and prayer for the faithful Pakistan which will be forwarded to Church leaders there. For more information visit www.acnuk.org/pakistanblasphemylaws or contact ACN on 020 8642 8668.

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.

MALTA DAY-UK Saturday 11th September. An annual celebration organised every September by the Malta High Commission and the Maltese people in Great Britain. Please see the notice in the porch.

WALSINGHAM Dowry of Mary pilgrimage on Sunday 12th September. Please see the notice in the porch.

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: DO YOU BELIEVE IN HELL? In medieval times there was a lot of emphasis on hell. You only have to look at much of the art which has survived to this day and you will see paintings of the Last Judgement abound with the Devil's helpers herding the souls of the damned into all sorts of awful punishments. The fronts of many a European cathedral would not be complete without scenes intended to shock the passer-by. But today we hear very little about hell. It's rather embarrassing for us these days. We don't like to talk about it and we hardly ever hear anyone preach about it. In religious terms it simply isn't politically correct. So it comes as a bit of nuisance when our liturgy devotes the whole of the gospel today to the concept of hell. We're quick off the mark to point out that we cannot take Jesus' words literally about fire, brimstone, weeping and gnashing of teeth. The idea of

someone being prodded by a fork and roasting on a fire is probably not what Jesus had in mind anyway. So we tend then to opt for the metaphorical approach to hell. We speak about the gospel statements not as physical descriptions but as symbolic ways of describing the reality of being separated from God and knowing that we have made our final choice. But then some people try to point out that if God is loving then would he ever condemn anyone to eternal punishment? But unfortunately this would be to overrule our freewill. What if someone really wanted to be in hell? Would God stop them and intervene? Wouldn't this make them little better than robots with no ability to choose? Finally, we end up positing hell as complete annihilation. People who don't achieve heaven, this argument goes, are simply eternally obliterated rather than punished because the prospect of eternal punishment is too horrific for God. Uncomfortable though it is, we have to accept the fact that it is possible for men and women to experience God and to make a deliberate, informed, conscious decision to reject the goodness and holiness of what God is calling us to. And it is not possible to hear today's gospel and come up with a sugar-daddy God who simply overrides human freedom and autonomy. So do you believe in hell or not? And which one do you (not) believe in?

ATTENDANCE Last week we welcomed **354** people into our church. The offertory collection came to **£529.55**; thank you.