

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 5th SEPTEMBER 2010

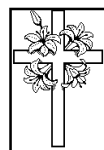
### ✕ TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (C) ✕

<b>Sun 5</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Dec'd members of Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Martin Folan
		4.00pm	<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>
<b>Mon 6</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Len Church
<b>Tue 7</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Gerald Quinn RIP
<b>Wed 8</b>	The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Arthur Ryan RIP
<b>Thu 9</b>	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Lloyd Robinson RIP
<b>Fri 10</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: James Fitzgerald RIP
<b>Sat 11</b>	Our Lady	10.00am	✕ Mass: Ben De Souza RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
<b>✕ TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (C) ✕</b>			
<b>Sun 12</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Verdolini Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Barbara Novak RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo <i>Baptism of Elizabeth Alice Clark</i>

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Josephine Paul, Salvatore Formosa, Ernest Cragan,  
Kenneth Almond, Matteo Rocco, Berry O'Connell,  
Alice Wills, Iris Appleton, Fedor Yarmak, Stuart Hills,  
Philip Dunford, Tony Collins, Marjorie Shea,  
Joyce Guscott, Hilda Mason and Lisette Cathan.



*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]

Registered Charity 235468

5th September 2010

### ✕ TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (C) ✕

#### WORD OF GOD

If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:26-27)



#### WORD FOR TODAY

We must prefer nothing to the love of Christ, not even the strongest bonds of affection. To be his disciples, we must take up our cross and renounce everything.

#### THE BIRTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (8th September)

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church at least since the 8th Century. The Church's calendar observes the birthdays of only two saints: Saint John the Baptist (June 24), and Mary, Mother of Jesus.

John the Baptist is considered especially sanctified even before his birth. his birth to Elizabeth and Zachariah is foretold in the first chapter of Luke, and it is also recorded (cf. Luke 1:41) that Elizabeth felt the infant John "leap in her womb" when Mary approached her soon after the Annunciation.

The birth of Mary was also miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the Mother of his Son (the feast of her Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8). The dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, though generally believed throughout the Church for many centuries, was formally declared by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

According to one tradition, the house in which Mary was born in Nazareth is the same one in which the Annunciation took place. By another tradition, the Annunciation site is beneath the Crusader church of Saint Anna in Jerusalem, under a 3rd Century oratory known as the "Gate of Mary".

## **AROUND the PARISH**

**WELCOME** this week to Fr Paul who is with us once again for the month of September while Fr Geoffrey takes his late summer break.

**THANK YOU** to the donor of a brand new refrigerator for use in the parish office.

**PAKISTAN** The situation in Pakistan continues to worsen; even where families are able to return to their land they find all their homes and possessions gone. We cannot imagine ourselves in such a situation, and the Catholic Agencies are working hard to alleviate suffering and give aid wherever possible. **This weekend** we are having a special collection for the victims of the floods and we would ask you to spare as much as you can to help.

**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 Visit Website ([www.thepapalvisit.org.uk](http://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](http://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: SPECIAL PRAYER BOOK** The timetable for the Holy Father's visit is now published along with

a publication from *Magnificat* containing the liturgies and events of the Papal Visit. Please pick one of these booklets up from the table in the porch. They are beautifully produced and contain prayers and information on the life of Cardinal Newman as well as the liturgies themselves. They are free of charge to enable us all to follow the events, whether we intend to visit one of the venues, or follow the services on radio or television.

**INDIAN INDULGENCE MEAL** Sunday 26th September at 1.00pm. Cost £6 per person, with £2 for a child under ten years old. These meals are an authentic Indian experience and a chance to meet up with other parishioners. Proceeds go towards the Building Fund.

**RED MISSION (APF) BOXES** If you have recently returned a red mission box for emptying, please collect it from the windowsill in the Church Porch. Thank you.

## **AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND**

**VACANCY** St John Fisher School has a vacancy for a part time midday meals supervisor, required as soon as possible. Please see the notice on the schools notice board.

**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](mailto:Southwark@cafod.org.uk).

**MALTA DAY-UK** Saturday 11th Sep-

tember. 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.

**DAY of RENEWAL** at Aylesford Priory, Saturday 25th 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. See the notice on the board.

**EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY AND DEMENTIA** A half day event (either morning or afternoon) at Aylesford Priory on 23rd October. This event is for carers, pastoral worker and Eucharistic Ministers as well as clergy. Please see the notice in the porch.

**FAITH IN FOCUS** Like a king making ready for battle or a contractor about to build a tower, we have to count the cost as we set out to follow Jesus. Our Lord today is telling us up front the sacrifice it will take. His words aren't addressed to his chosen few, the Twelve, but rather to the "great crowds" - to "anyone," to "whoever" wishes to be his disciple. That only makes his call all the more stark and uncompromising. We are to "hate" our old lives, renounce all the earthly things we rely upon, to choose him above every person and possession. Again he tells us that the things we have - even our family ties and obligations - can become an excuse, an obstacle that keeps us from giving ourselves completely to him. Jesus brings us the saving wisdom we are

promised in today's first reading. His is that saving Wisdom. Weighed down by many earthly concerns, the burdens of our body and its needs, we could never see beyond the things of this world, could never detect God's heavenly design and intention. So in his mercy he sent us his Spirit, his wisdom from on High, to make straight our path to him. Jesus himself paid the price for to free us from the sentence imposed on Adam, which we recall in today's Psalm. No more will the work of our hands be an affliction, no more are we destined to turn back to dust. We have been redeemed, given a new family and a new inheritance, made children of the father, brothers and sisters in the Lord. We are free now to come after him, to serve him - no longer slaves to the ties of our past lives. In Christ, all our yesterdays have passed. We live in what the psalm today beautifully describes as the daybreak of his kindness. For he has given us wisdom of heart, taught us to number our days aright.

**ATTENDANCE:** Last weekend we welcomed 401 people into our Church, and we received **£580.70** in the offertory. **This weekend** there is a retiring collection for the victims of the floods in Pakistan - please do be as generous as possible because the Catholic agencies need lots of support in their work. Next weekend is Racial Justice Sunday and there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.

## **THE LAST WORD...**

"We don't take up our cross daily to crucify Jesus again but to crucify our selfishness."  
- Kent Crockett