

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th SEPTEMBER 2010

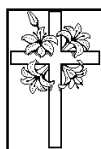
✠ TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

Sun 12	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Verdonlini Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Barbara Novak RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo <i>Baptism of Elizabeth Alice Clark</i>
Mon 13	St John Chrysostom	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Humphrey Mapfunde
Tue 14	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Wed 15	Our Lady of Sorrows	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Lloyd Robinson RIP
Thu 16	SS Cornelius and Cyprian	7.00am	✠ Mass: Gentile Michele and Ferrante Luisa
Fri 17	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Teresa McCullough
Sat 18	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: In Thanksgiving
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY (C) ✠			
Sun 19	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Dec'd Members of Walters Family
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Maureen and Simon Julian
		4.00pm	✠ Mass: Malayalam Community Mass

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rita Keating, and for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Susan O'Connell, Christopher Gellett, William Herbert, Gerard Szalajko, Julia Knell, Francis Stewart, Leslie Whittell, Jane Rand and Thomas Long.



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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12th September 2010

✠ TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

Your brother here was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.

(Luke 15:32)



WORD FOR TODAY

The parables suggest one of the deep truths about God's mercy: only those who celebrate God's grace to others can receive it themselves. Grace is the rule in God's household.

The EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS *(14th September)*

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (or Triumph of the Cross) we honour the Holy Cross by which Christ redeemed the world. The public veneration of the Cross of Christ originated in the fourth century, according to early accounts. The miraculous discovery of the cross on September 14, 326, by Saint Helen, mother of Constantine, while she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, is the origin of the tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on this date. Constantine later built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on the site of her discovery of the cross. On this same pilgrimage she ordered two other churches built: one in Bethlehem near the Grotto of the Nativity, the other on the Mount of the Ascension, near Jerusalem.

The feast came into prominence in the seventh century — after 629, when the Byzantine emperor Heraclitus restored the Holy Cross to Jerusalem, after defeating the Persians who had stolen it.

Christians "exalt" (raise on high) the Cross of Christ as the instrument of our salvation. Adoration of the Cross is, thus, adoration of Jesus Christ, the God Man, who suffered and died on this Roman instrument of torture for our redemption from sin and death.

AROUND the PARISH

PRAYERS, PLEASE for the repose of the soul of Rita Keating, who died on Wednesday. Her requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 21st September at 10am.

INDIAN INDULGENCE MEAL Will be held on Sunday 26th September at 1pm. Cost £6 for adults and £1 for children under 10. Please bring your own drinks. The Committee has decided to issue membership cards which would cost £6 per person. This would entitle you to £1 discount on future events for one year from the date of purchase. Those wishing to purchase a membership card can do so after Mass on Saturday and Sunday, or on the door on 26th September. If you have any prizes/gifts for the raffle, they would be gratefully received.

TABLE SALE There will be a table sale on Sunday 3rd October after the Sunday morning Masses in the McMahon Hall to raise money for the Building Fund.

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.

PAPAL VISIT: TELEVISION COVERAGE The Papal Visit will be covered by the BBC. The schedule is as follows:

- **Thursday** 16th September - Edinburgh: The Queen welcomes the Pope. **10:05am, BBC1.**

Thursday 16th September - Live coverage of Mass from Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. **5:00pm-7:30pm, BBC2.**

- **Friday** 17th September - Evening Prayer from Westminster Abbey. **6:00pm-7:30pm, BBC2.**
- **Saturday** 18th September - Papal Mass from Westminster Cathedral. **9:40am-12:15pm, BBC2.**
- **Sunday** 19th September - Beatification Mass of Cardinal John Henry Newman. Live from Cofton Park, Birmingham. **9:20am-12:30pm, BBC2.**
- **Monday** 20th September - Highlights of the visit. From St Mary's College, Oscott. **7:00pm, BBC2.**

It is hoped that this information will be of use to those of you wishing to follow His Holiness on television.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or maybe you know somebody who is? The RCIA is a small, friendly and informal group that explores the Catholic faith together. By doing the course, you are not obliged to become a Catholic, it is entirely your choice - there is absolutely no pressure. We meet for one hour a week from September 28th at 8pm, through to Easter 2011, during term time. If you wish to join, or would like to know more, please phone Gillian Knight on 574404.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

VACANCY St Mary's School has a vacancy for a midday meals supervisor. Closing date for entries is **this Monday**, 13th September. Please see the poster on the schools' board 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.

FORMATION COURSE FOR CATECHISTS The staff of the Christian Education Centre (CEC) in Tooting Bec are running an 8-session formation course for catechists. This course is open to both new and experienced catechists. The sessions will take place on Monday evenings between 7pm and 9pm, beginning on Monday 27 September 2010 at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Rd, SW17 8BS (close to Tooting Bec underground station). Cost is £5 per session (or £35 for the 8-week course). Please see poster for further details or contact the Secretary at the CEC on 0208 672 7684/2422 or

Email: office@cectootingbec.org.uk

FAITH IN FOCUS The episode in today's first reading has been called "Israel's original sin". Freed from bondage, born as a people of God in the covenant at Sinai, Israel turned aside from its ways, fell to worshipping a golden calf. Moses implores God's mercy, as Jesus will later intercede for the whole human race, as he still pleads for sinners at God's right hand and through the ministry of the Church. Israel's sin is the sin of the world. It is our sin. Ransomed from death and made his children in Baptism, we fall prey to the idols of this world. We remain a "stiff-necked people," resisting his will for us like an ox refuses the ploughman's yoke. Like Israel, in our sin we push God away, reject our divine sonship. Once he called us "my people", but our sin makes us "no people" - people he

should, in justice, disown. Yet in his mercy, he is faithful to the covenant He swore by his own self in Jesus. In Jesus, God comes to Israel and to each of us - as a shepherd to seek the lost - to carry us back to the heavenly feast, the perpetual heritage promised long ago to Abraham's children. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners", Paul cries in today's second reading. These are the happiest words the world has ever known. Because of Jesus, as Paul himself can testify, even the blasphemer and persecutor can seek his mercy. As the sinners do in today's gospel, we draw near to listen to him. In this Eucharist, we bring him the acceptable sacrifice we sing of in today's psalm - our hearts, humbled and contrite. In the company of his angels and saints, we rejoice that He has wiped out our offence, celebrate with him - that we have turned from the evil way that we might live.

ATTENDANCE: Last weekend we welcomed 322 people into our Church, and we received **£655.62** in the offertory.

• The CAFOD collection for the **Pakistan Flooding Appeal** raised **£880.86**. Thank you for your generosity! **This weekend** is Racial Justice Sunday and there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice, an independent charity and an Agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, established in 1984.

THE LAST WORD...

"Never cease loving a person, and never give up hope for him, for even the prodigal son who had fallen most low, could still be saved; the bitterest enemy and also he who was your friend could again be your friend; love that has grown cold can kindle"

Soren Kierkegaard