

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



2A Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL
 Phone (01634) 852979
 Email: office@ourladyofgillingham.org
 Website: www.ourladyofgillingham.org
 Parish Priest Fr Geoffrey Pointer
 Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

13th September 2009

✠ TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY ✠

WORD of GOD

If good works do not go with faith,
it is quite dead.

(James 2:16)

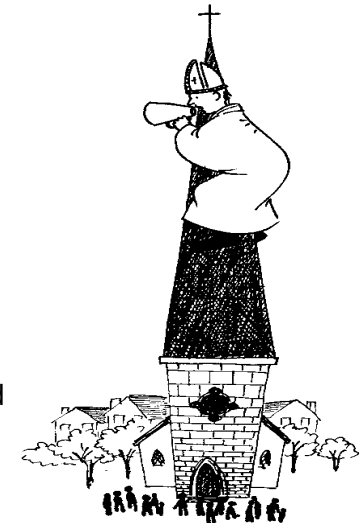
WORD for TODAY

Simply claiming to be a Christian isn't enough;
there has to be some evidence that we are
living a life consistent with the faith we proclaim to
espouse. For as St James reminds us, if we claim
to have faith then we must be able to back it up
with good deeds.



TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS *(September 14th)*

Begun around the seventh century as a result of
rediscovering fragments of the cross of Christ,
the feast of the Triumph or Exaltation of the Cross
celebrates the victory that Christ won on Calvary
over evil, sin and death. It reminds us that salvation
is offered to us by Jesus' sacrifice and that from
now on there is nothing on this earth that can ever
hold permanent sway over our lives since Christ
has conquered all that stands in the way of fullness
of life. Until quite recently this feast was considered
of such importance that the Wednesday, Friday and
Saturday in the week in which the feast fell were
designated as Ember Days, days of special prayer
and fasting.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th SEPTEMBER 2009

✠ TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY ✠

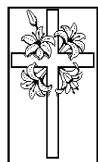
Sun 13	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Dec'd members of Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Mon 14	Exaltation of The Cross	10.00am	✠ Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
Tue 15	Our Lady of Sorrows	9.15am	✠ Mass: Rebecca Cannavina
Wed 16	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	10.00am	✠ Mass: In thanksgiving
Thu 17	Feria		NO MASS
Fri 18	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Sylvester Kiernan RIP
Sat 19	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Fred Yarmack RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

✠ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ✠

Sun 20	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Antonio Ritucci RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Catherine Torode RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		4.00pm	✠ <i>Mass: for the Malayalam Community</i>

Please pray for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:

Margaret O'Connell, Christopher Gellett, William Herbert, Gerard Szalajko,



Julia Knell, Francis Stewart, Leslie Whittell, Jane Rand,
Thomas Long, and Carmine Filipone.



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

AROUND the PARISH

THE BEST LAID PLANS Many thanks to Fr James and Fr Fitzgerald for stepping in at the last minute to say Mass for us. Please refer to the back of the newsletter to see amended Mass times for the week. Sunday Masses will remain the same.

BEEN ON HOLIDAY? If so, you can keep up to date with news from the Parish by taking back copies of our newsletter from the box just inside the Sacristy door.

CAR PARK. The Children's' Liturgy has re-started after the summer break, and there are many young children at the 9.30 Mass. Car drivers, please be very careful entering and leaving the car park as we don't want any accidents!

PARISH LUNCH As Fr Paul's visit to England is delayed the Parish lunch for 20th September is postponed. More information later.

VISITS to the RELICS of St THERESE Several parishioners would like to visit the relics at some time across the three days they are at Aylesford Priory (9th to 11th October), but have problems getting there. If you are intending to attend any of the celebrations by car and could offer a lift to one or two other parishioners, please put your name and phone number on the list in the porch. Thank you.

There is a further supply of the leaflets celebrating the life and Spirituality of St Therese on the table in the porch.

The Universe this week has a special supplement.

CONCERT 10th October: Please keep the evening of 10th October free in your diary. The Siskin Singers will be giving a concert in the church at 7.45pm, fol-

lowed by cheese and wine in the hall. This will be easy listening music, both classical and popular, and should be a very enjoyable event. £5 entrance and all proceeds to go to the Building Fund.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS: There are prayer cards for Priests on the windowsills in the porch. Please take one, and also a list of the priests in the Diocese from the table.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

ANNUS SACERDOTALIS Pope Benedict XVI has asked that the year commemorating the centenary of the death of St Jean Marie Vianney be observed as a Year of Priesthood. There is a prayer calendar of all the priests of the Diocese available in the porch, and we are asked to pray for them daily by name.

VISIT TO THE HOLY LAND from 9th to 17th April 2010 with A Day with Mary Pilgrimages. For more details phone 020 8641 6418 or see the notice in the porch.

A DAY WITH MARY at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 10th October, starting at 9.45 and finishing with the first Mass of Sunday at 6.00 pm. See the notice in the porch.

HOPE FOR A NEW BEGINNING A beginning experience weekend for the widowed, separated and divorced at Aylesford Priory 25-27 September. Beginning Experience is a ministry led by a trained team of volunteers. Their work is carried out at special weekend gatherings which encourage participants to share their need and deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. Contacts: Ruth, 0208 8679 7157, Sandra, 01293 783965 or Susan, 01227 264961. For further details please see the poster

in the porch.

CHURCHES TOGETHER A meeting will be held to sample local views about Churches Together in Kent, at The Vines Church, Victoria Street, Gillingham on Monday 28th September at 8pm. Bishop John has encouraged attendance from the Catholic community. The meeting will last less than an hour.

St THERESE of LISIEUX The relics of St Thérèse will be visiting Aylesford Priory from 9th to 11th October. The relics will be placed in the Relic Chapel and people are invited to process past the casket. They may reverently touch the casket if they wish, and bring to God through the intercession of St Thérèse whatever intentions they have. Although the accent is on enabling people to spend time in silent prayer, drawing closer to God through this unique opportunity, there will also be liturgies and times of guided prayer. For full details of events pick up a brochure.

FAITH IN FOCUS: GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT Today's scripture readings have caused much trouble in the past. Martin Luther had no time for St James and his letter, and in fact referred to it as "a work of straw". The hub of the dispute is about faith and good works. Are we saved simply by faith or do we also need good works to accompany it before we can be saved? Some people's faith is almost exclusively intellectual. It's all in the mind. They can dissect complicated questions of doctrine, hold forth on the divinity and humanity of Christ as well as the complex relationship between the members of the Trinity. There is nothing about the Creed that they don't know. But it doesn't make them love God. In fact, some of the most intellectually gifted people remain on a very dry level of faith. Other

people learn all these teachings of faith and understand them but their response is only emotional or cultural. They go into raptures at the sight of a beautiful stained-glass window, a magnificently carved statue of Virgin and Child, or the sonority of a cathedral organ. Their emotions are stirred by "Abide with Me" on Cup Final Day and their sense of cultural propriety is bolstered by the flags and colours of the regiments that hang from the ceilings of some of our churches. But it doesn't make them love God. In fact, some of them even equate Christianity with their own political leanings. St James speaks out forthrightly today about the type of faith required if we are to be saved. It must be an active, dynamic faith. It's true that we're saved not by our own merits but solely by the grace of God made visible in Jesus Christ. But if faith is the root of the tree of salvation then good works are its fruit. It makes no sense to profess a faith whose primary tenet is love of God and neighbour without showing any evidence that we care at all for our neighbour. Having an active faith shows that we do indeed love God. It shows that our faith is not all talk but is also walk; we get up and do something about it. It's a very delicate balance between faith and good works. But, of course, before you can have a balance you need to have two things to weigh.

ATTENDANCE We welcomed **380** people to our Church last week, and received **£516.07** in the collection. Thank you. This week the retiring collection is for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.

THE LAST WORD... One plus nothing equals one. Two plus nothing equals two. But faith plus nothing equals nothing. Faith without works is no faith at all.

(Ambrose O'Donnell)