

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 20th SEPTEMBER 2009

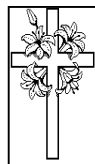
✕ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ✕

Sun 20	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Antonio Ritucci RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Catherine Torode RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		4.00pm	✕ Mass: for the Malayalam Community
Mon 21	St Matthew	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
Tue 22	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: April Larkin RIP
Wed 23	St Pio of Pietrelcina	9.00am	✕ Mass: Elizabeth Kelly RIP
Thu 24	Our Lady of Walsingham	7.00am	✕ Mass: Delcie Crack RIP
Fri 25	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Franco Verdolini RIP
Sat 26	Our Lady	10.00am	✕ Mass: Bridie & John Whiffen RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY ✕			
Sun 27	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Verdolini Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Catherine Torode RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

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

Hugh Corr, Nonora O'Hare, Fredrick Jackson,
Lidia Tompolska, April Larkin, Alice Burley, Valerie Gent,
Samuel Scott, Thomas McKee, Catherine Keane,
Bjorn Borg and Peter Smith.

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



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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468

20th September 2009

✕ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ✕

WORD for TODAY

In a world that encourages us to put ourselves first, to be assertive and to get every last ounce of what we deserve, the message of Christ rings a lonely bell: put yourself last and become the servant of everyone else.



WORD of GOD

If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself the last of all and the servant of all.

(Mark 9:35)

MATTHEW (21st September)

"Matthew" means gift of God. Jesus called the tax-collector Matthew to be one of the apostles and he left his job to follow Jesus who promised gifts that tax money could not buy. St Bede put it very well when he preached a homily about St Matthew: "There is no reason for surprise that the tax collector abandoned earthly wealth as soon as the Lord commanded him. Nor should one be amazed that neglecting his wealth, he joined a band of men whose leader had, on Matthew's assessment, no riches at all. Our Lord summoned Matthew by speaking to him in words. By an invisible, interior impulse flooding his mind with the light of grace, he instructed him to walk in his footsteps. In this way Matthew could understand that Christ, who was summoning him away from earthly possessions, had incorruptible treasures of heaven in his gift."



AROUND the PARISH

THIS WEEK we welcome Fr Geoffrey back from his holiday, but please note that Mass on Wednesday will be at 9.00am. Our very grateful thanks to Fr James Clark and Fr Kevin Fitzgerald for filling in over the last two weeks.

CTS BOOKLETS We have a supply of new titles so please have a look at the display on the windowsill in the Porch to see if there is any subject which particularly interests you. These little books now cover every conceivable question you may have about the Catholic Faith, the Church's attitude on a wide variety of modern day topics and aids to worship, prayer and devotions. The prices are very reasonable, and the money should be put in the box marked 'papers' next to the table.

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.

CONCERT 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, followed 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

CAFOD UPDATE: In **Nigeria** CAFOD were the first aid agency on the scene after violence erupted last November. Conflict in **Gaza** killed 1,300 Palestinians and injured thousands more - CAFOD gave £229,000 for emergency medical supplies, food, drinking water and blankets. Last October up to 90 per cent of households interviewed in **Zimbabwe** were on the brink of hunger and CAFOD partners are still distributing food to 159,000 people. Help is also going to **Cambodia, Brazil, The Philippines, Kenya** and many other needy people throughout the world. Because of the drop in the value of the pound CAFOD will need more support this year to fulfil it's vital work. Harvest Fast Day this year is October 2nd.

DEEPENING OUR FAITH The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is a course which is open to teachers, catechists, parishioners and all adults who are keen to deepen their understanding of their ~Catholic faith. Various courses are available, and individuals are welcome to book for whole courses or just particular modules. Please see the poster for further details or contact Dr Frank Keen, Course Secretary on 0208 672 2422/7684 or at fkeen@tootingbec.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: There are some Christmas card catalogues from Cabrini (The Catholic Children's Society) on the table in the porch. However, don't forget that our own repository will have a good selection to choose from!

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.

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: THE MADNESS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN Billy, aged four, and his brother Tommy, aged six, were arguing about who was going to get the first pancake that their grandmother was making at the stove. She took the opportunity to teach them a lesson, telling them that Jesus would let his brother have the first pancake. Tommy turned to Billy and said, "Ok, Billy. Go on then, you be Jesus." Self-preservation seems to lead to selfishness, just as the instinct for survival tends to make us want to be the "alpha male". Even in the Garden of Eden it had already started when Adam and Eve were convinced that eating the fruit of the forbidden tree would make

them just as good as God. No longer would they be in second place. Yet Jesus tells us that being first in the kingdom of heaven means being last on this earth. It's the paradox at the heart of Christianity that says to get the most out of life you must give up your life, to rule people you must be their servant, and to be first you must make yourself last. There's no doubt that such an attitude goes against the grain. We seem to be programmed to want to be at the front of the queue. Advertises in magazines and on television pamper to the fact that we "deserve" this or that, that we should adopt a me-first approach to getting what we want in our no-win no-fee society. Knowing your rights and getting everything you're entitled to has become the norm. It's a dog-eat-dog world and you're worth it. Nothing could point more clearly to the fact that Christianity is not a socially comfortable religious position to adopt. To follow Jesus means to stand out as a sign of contradiction to the views that our society takes as normal and normative. That's why Christianity is not merely a question of "being nice". It's a choice to forego many of the values and attitudes that are prized by most of our fellow citizens. It's an option to set aside a self-serving approach to what we can get out of life, and instead to live life in a way that puts others first. Is this madness? Billy and Tommy clearly think so. Most people would think so. But Christians wouldn't.

ATTENDANCE There were **355** people attended Mass last weekend, and we received **£578.14** in the collection. The retiring Collection gave **£127.93** for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice. Parking for the football raised **£330** - many thanks to the stewards.

THE LAST WORD... "Getting what you want is not nearly as important as giving what you have." (Tom Krause)