

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th SEPTEMBER 2009

✕ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY ✕

Sun 27	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Verdolini Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Catherine Torode RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 28	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Fred Yarmack RIP
Tue 29	SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	9.00am	✕ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
Wed 30	St Jerome	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ School at Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
Thu 1st October	St Teresa of the Child Jesus	7.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Morrissey RIP
Fri 2	The Holy Guardian Angels	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: In Reparation for Abortion
Sat 3	Our Lady	10.00am	✕ Mass: Carlton Aubert RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY ✕

Sun 4	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Hastie RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Ethan Jack Goldup</i>
		4.00pm	<i>October Devotions</i>

PARISH DIARIES are now available from the repository: 25p.

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

John McGargle, Barry Hodgeman, Norman Cooper, Shane Boyle,
Margaret Huddart, Louise Cotter, Ronald Phoenix,
Joseph Mills, Hubert McDonald, Mathai Mathew
and Norman Knowles.



*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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—Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468—

27th September 2009

✕ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY ✕

WORD of GOD

No one who works a miracle in my name
is likely to speak evil of me.

Anyone who is not against us is for us.

(Mark 9:39-40)

WORD for TODAY

When we see others and are jealous or envious
of them it's because we have failed to see how
much God has given us. We are looking in the
wrong direction. Jealousy is actually lack of faith
in God's ability to deliver to us what we need in
daily life.



THREE OUT OF FOUR? (29th September)

29th September celebrates the feast of three
archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.
Michael defended justice and right against
the rebellious angels led by Lucifer. Gabriel
appears several times in scripture to an-
nounce what God intended for his people.
Raphael is seen looking after Tobias in the
Book of Tobit. However, in some Christian
traditions there is a fourth archangel who
never seems to get a look-in and has been
pushed out of this feast. Who is he? His
name is Uriel.



AROUND the PARISH

LETTER to PARISHIONERS 'Following my recent illness I would like to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to the people of our parish. I had lots of cards, flowers and, most of all, prayers said for me, and this meant an awful lot to me. I am now on the road to recovery and am gradually trying to be human again. I was truly overwhelmed by the prayers and kindness of our parish community. Thank you all so much. With love, Gillian Knight.'

Fr PAUL (from India) left a message on Thursday to ask for prayers for his former retired Bishop who has died. ✠ *May he rest in peace.* ✠

Mgr RICHARD MOTH Mgr Moth's Episcopal Ordination as Bishop of the Forces takes place this coming Tuesday at Westminster Cathedral. Since both Fr James and Fr Geoffrey will be attending Mass on Tuesday will be at 9am.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE at St Thomas', Rainham, this coming Tuesday at 8pm.

DISABLED PARKING Please respect the three disabled parking bays in the church car park. We have many parishioners who have mobility difficulties, and it would be kind if as many people as possible parked in the rear car park to leave free the places nearest the door.

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 Thérèse on the table in the porch.

CONCERT Please keep the evening of Saturday 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.

TABLE SALE We will again be having one of our popular table sales after Sunday morning Masses on the 18th October. Items are welcome, but please, no clothing.

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

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.

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

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.

TOWARDS ADVENT The annual Towards Advent Festival of Catholic Culture takes place on Saturday November 14th

at Westminster Cathedral Hall. Displays by a wide range of Catholic groups and organisations, talks, music, a chance to browse and buy catholic books, DVDs and devotional items. Refreshments available all day; play corner for children. Official opening 10.30am with Archbishop Vincent Nichols and the Chamber Choir of the London Oratory School. Admission free. Everyone welcome.

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 at fkeen@tootingbec.org.uk, 020 8672 2422/7684.

CHRISTMAS CARDS There are some Christmas card catalogues from Cabrini on the table in the porch. However, don't forget that our own repository will have a good selection from which to choose.

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.

FAITH IN FOCUS: JEALOUS OR ZEALOUS? Moses and Jesus faced a similar problem. Moses picked seventy people who received the spirit of prophecy. But people complained that two other men had received the same gift even though they hadn't been picked by Moses. And in today's gospel John tries to stop a man from casting out devils because he wasn't one of the disciples. Both Moses and Jesus deal with the problem in the same way: if only everyone could prophesy; if only everyone could cast out devils; if only everyone were so zealous. Anyone not against us must be on our side. So leave them alone and just be happy that they're doing something good! You can't

help thinking that there's a bit of jealousy and envy in these two scenes. Why else would you complain about someone doing good, unless you were jealous of them? But jealousy easily parades as righteousness. Jealousy is a strange emotion. On a human level it involves us feeling that we should be in the same position as the other person. We should be as popular, as important, as rich or as valued as the other. But on a religious level it shows a lack of trust in God: if we are jealous of others then we are fearful that God hasn't given us enough. If we find we're envious of other people then it's a sure sign that we're not at ease with ourselves and with our relationship with God. For God loves each person as if they were the only one to exist. God doesn't have favourites and he gives to each of us according to our needs. Maybe if some people "have all the luck" then it's a sign that they need it? As for jealousy about other people having more money or possessions than us, St James puts it into perspective in today's reading. What's the point of flaunting your temporary wealth on this earth if you fail to prepare yourself for the life that will last forever? Oddly enough, we sometimes talk about God being a jealous God. What this means is that God is zealous for his people. God will never let us down. He will never leave us wanting and he promises us all we need. So if we try to become like God then we need to be zealous about our faith, not jealous.

ATTENDANCE We welcomed **323** people to Mass last week and received **£539.79** in the offertory. The Building Fund received very generous donations amounting to **£1,050** and we also received **£43** from the 50/50 club (the winner was A Luckhurst). **This Friday** is Harvest Fast day and the envelopes for your donations to CAFOD are on the windowsills in the porch. These will be collected next weekend.