

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th OCTOBER 2009

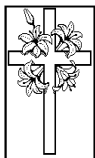
### ✠ TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY ✠

<b>Sun 4</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Hastie RIP
		<i>12.30pm</i>	<i>Baptism of Ethan Jack Goldup</i>
		<i>4.00pm</i>	<i>October Devotions</i>
<b>Mon 5</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Eugene Walsh RIP
<b>Tue 6</b>	Feria	<b>12.00noon</b>	✠ Requiem Mass: Martin McDonagh
<b>Wed 7</b>	Our Lady of the Rosary	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ School at Mass: Mr & Mrs Healy's Intention
<b>Thu 8</b>	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: James McEvans RIP
<b>Fri 9</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Dec'd of Bishop Family
<b>Sat 10</b>	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Aurora Wilson RIP
		<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

### ✠ TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ✠

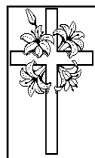
<b>Sun 11</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Gladys Persich RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Prop Populo
		<i>4.00pm</i>	<i>October Devotions</i>

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Martin McDonagh, recently dead, and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:



Doris Valentine-Whittall, Ann D'Mello, Peter Lewis,  
Susan Patterson, Jane Reid, Robert Hemmings  
and Joseph Zammit.

*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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 Website: [www.ourladyofgillingham.org](http://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—

4th October 2009

### ✠ TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY ✠

#### WORD of GOD

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.  
*(Genesis 2:24)*

#### WORD for TODAY

They say that there are always three in a Christian marriage: the bride, the groom and God. The love between a man and a woman is a reflection, a sacrament, of the love that God has for each of us and for his own bride, the Church. That's why Christians are called to be sacraments of this love, using their marriage as a way of reflecting God's love to others.



#### ROSARY SUNDAY (Today)

October is sometimes called the month of the Rosary and today we remind ourselves of this ancient devotional practice that focuses our minds and hearts on those episodes that are connected with the unfurling of our salvation in Jesus Christ, with particular reference to the role played by his mother, the Virgin Mary. Rosary means a crown of roses, a spiritual bouquet given to the Mother of God. It is sometimes called the Dominican Rosary, to distinguish it from other rosary-like prayers such as the Franciscan or the Servite Rosaries. It is also, in a general sense, a form of chaplet or corona (*crown*), of which there are many varieties in the Church. In English it has been called "Our Lady's Psalter" or "the beads". This last term derives from an Old English word for prayers (*bede*) coming from the word to request (*biddan* or *bid*). ✠ The Rosary is recited every weekday in the Church, half an hour before the Mass time. We are reminded that those who recite five decades of the Rosary in church, as a family, a religious community, or as a group of the faithful, may gain a plenary indulgence daily. There will be October Devotions and Benediction every Sunday throughout the month.



## AROUND the PARISH

**PARISH DIARIES** are now available from the repository for 25p.

**CONCERT** Next Saturday at 7.45pm in the Church, followed by cheese and wine in the hall. This will be a great evening with the Siskin Singers and costs only £5 - proceeds to go to the building fund. Come along and enjoy the evening.

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

**St MARY'S SCHOOL** If your child's fifth birthday is between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 he will be due to start school in September 2010. Please contact Mrs France at the office at St Mary's school and she will take your name. Application forms should be sent out by the beginning of November. Our parish school offers an excellent all-round education as well as the ethos and pastoral care of a good Catholic school.

**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

**VACANCY** at St John Fisher School for a Teacher of Art. Please see the notice on the schools notice board.

**St THERESE of LISIEUX** There are still some leaflets outlining the various events for St Therese visit to Aylesford on the 9th, 10th and 11th October. If you need transport please check the list on the table in the porch for the phone number of people who are willing to give lifts. This is a wonderful opportunity to revere the relics of the Saint during her tour around England.

**A FRESH LOOK** at Baptism and Confirmation on Saturday 14th November and at Reconciliation and Holy Communion

on Saturday 28th November. An opportunity to explore the theory and practice of these Sacraments. Both days will be held at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Totting Bec Road, SW17. 10.30am to 2.30pm. See the notice in the porch.

**TOWARDS ADVENT** The annual Towards Advent Festival of Catholic Culture takes place on Saturday 14th November 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 on 020 8672 2422/7684.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** Our repository will soon have a very good selection and the proceeds go to supporting the work of the parish.

**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: CHRISTIAN POLYGAMY?** The priest was giving out little wooden crosses to the people who had attended a service for married couples. "Put it in the room where you find yourself arguing, and it will remind you of your renewal of vows today." One

woman came up to him and said, "You'd better give me five." Marriage is probably the most complex of human relationships and is certainly the one on which civilisation has been founded over the centuries. It is the most natural thing in the world for men and women to leave the safety of the family home and branch out with another partner to restart the whole process of love, companionship and procreation. But any married couple will tell you that if a marriage is to be successful then you have to get married to several different people! This is not a plea for divorce but for accepting that people change as they mature and that if a marriage is to be successful then both partners have to adapt to the changes in each other. In a certain sense each one has to keep "remarrying" the same person as he or she changes over the years. A Christian polygamy but with only one wife and one husband! The young love of the courting couple is beautiful but unlikely to stand the test of time if one of them thinks that the other is going to behave in the same way when he or she is forty, sixty or eighty. If we refuse to allow each other to develop and grow then we are guilty of trying to "infantilise" the other person. We are trying to freeze them at a moment of time, the wedding day, and prevent them from ever developing and expanding the embryonic gifts and personality that God has given them. All of this is just another way of saying that Christian marriage is not simply a state of life but is a sacrament. A wedding takes a day but a marriage takes a lifetime. The love between two Christians is a reflection of the love that God has for each of us and that Christ has for his bride, the Church. Being married means striving at all times to be signs to the world of God's love through the way we love our partners. And that means "remarrying" them many times before we

both grow old

**HARVEST FAST DAY** Even if you forgot to fast this Friday, and put aside a few pounds for those less fortunate, please consider taking a Harvest Fast Day envelope from the windowsill in the porch and putting in a donation. The recent news of events in the Philippines and Indonesia show us how urgently support is needed. As Catholics we can be very sure of one thing - **CAFOD** will be one of the first agencies right in the heart of the troubled areas, working with local people to give aid to those who have lost everything.

**ATTENDANCE** Last weekend **346** people attended Mass in our Church, and we received **£530.61** in the collection. The building fund received a donation of **£30** - many thanks. We also received **£40** from the Sunday morning tea and coffee sessions and **£174** from the football parking; our thanks to the parishioners who give up their time to organize these activities. **THIS WEEK** please hand in your CAFOD Harvest Fast Day donations (envelopes on the windowsill in the porch). **NEXT WEEK** There will be a retiring collection for the Needs of the Diocese. **50/50 CLUB** September's winner of £44 was P Hardy with ticket number 76. October's subscriptions are being collected after Masses this weekend.

**BUILDING FUND** At present this stands at **£24,603.78**. The Diocese has arranged for a simplified structural survey to assess the condition of all our churches in the Diocese, to identify and help those parishes most in need of assistance. The timing of our own church roof repairs may be influenced by the results of this survey.

**INSURANCE.** Last month we paid our annual insurance bill of **£4,331** - an increase of 13%. Our insurance cost per week has gone up from £73.80 to £83.28.