

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 11th OCTOBER 2009

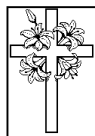
### ✠ TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ✠

<b>Sun 11</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Gladys Persich RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Prop Populo
		4.00pm	<i>October Devotions</i>
<b>Mon 12</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Nicola Di Lisio RIP
<b>Tue 13</b>	St Edward the Confessor	9.00am	✠ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
<b>Wed 14</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ School at Mass: Kathleen Wheelan RIP
<b>Thu 15</b>	St Teresa of Avila	7.00am	✠ Mass: Francesco & Michelina Gallo
<b>Fri 16</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Angiolina Fantetti RIP
<b>Sat 17</b>	St Ignatius of Antioch	10.00am	✠ Mass: Maurice & Mary O'Regan RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

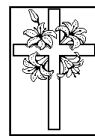
### ✠ TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY ✠

<b>Sun 18</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP <i>Baptism of Somtoochukwa Osunwa</i>
		4.00pm	<i>October Devotions</i>
		4.30pm	✠ Mass for the Malayalam Community

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Buck and Eileen Watt, recently dead, and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:



Sheila Ellery, John Aspey, Edward Florey, Alessandro Tizzano,  
Christopher Carroll, David Mooney, Leslie Groombridge,  
Edward Grainger, Charles Keane, Ned Ennis,  
Kathleen Carroll, Sarah Brown, Angiolina Fantetti,  
Margaret Scott and Arthur Dawkins.



*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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 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 —

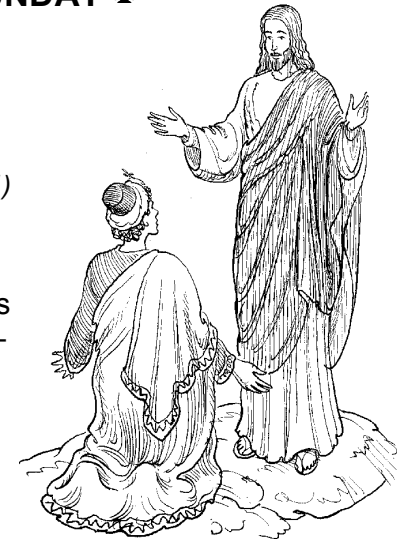
11th October 2009

### ✠ TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ✠

#### WORD of GOD

Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.

*(Mark 10:21)*



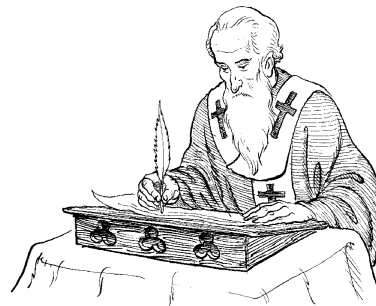
#### WORD for TODAY

Given that life is so short, where do we look for its source of meaning? What do we take as true wisdom? What do we consider the real treasure of our existence and where do we expect to spend eternity? These are just some of the questions today for those who want to follow Christ.

#### IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH (October 17th)

Before he eventually arrived in Rome, St Peter had been Bishop of Antioch. He was succeeded by a man named Evodius and then, around 68AD, by St Ignatius of Antioch who became the city's third bishop. Ignatius too was to suffer

martyrdom like St Peter and on his travels he wrote six important letters to the Church in the areas he visited and one to a friend, Polycarp, who was bishop in Smyrna. He is a very important source for understanding how the early Church began to categorise the teaching of Jesus. Incidentally, Ignatius is the first person to call the Church "catholic" and the first to use the three words bishop, priest and deacon. He called them "supervisor", "elder" and "servant"



## **AROUND the PARISH**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** If your child is not in a Catholic School, but is in year 4 or above and you wish him/her to make the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, please see Fr Geoffrey for a form.

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

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

**PARISH FINANCE** The Finance Committee meets on Monday 19th October at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

**St MARY'S SCHOOL** If your child's fifth birthday is between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 he/she 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.

**VISION PROCESS** As part of Archbishop Kevin's vision for the diocese a series of residential meetings with clergy has been taking place this year in Merville, France. Two areas of the diocese (the southwest and the southeast) have already met and it is the turn of the Kent area at the end of the month. Since most of the priests of the deanery will be attending it is not possible to provide Mass from Monday to Friday, 26th to 30th October. Apologies for any inconvenience. Any specific

Mass intentions that were requested will nevertheless be honoured.

**PARISH VISION** There will be a Parish Vision meeting, 7.30pm, Monday 9th November in the McMahan. More details soon.

**INDIAN INDULGENCE** There is a list at the back of the church for the parish lunch on 29th November.

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

## **AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND**

**DISCOVERING PRIESTHOOD** See the poster about a vocations day next Saturday.

**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.

**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: HOW TO BE REALLY HAPPY** If we take a close look at the man in today's gospel, who asks Jesus how to get eternal life and happiness, then we can glean quite a lot. He was humble; he actually ran up and knelt at Jesus' feet before speaking to him. He clearly had good motives because he wanted to know how to inherit eternal life. And he had good sense; enough to know that from what he heard of him Jesus was the right person to help him with this. So he was nobody's fool. What we usually remember about him is that he was rich. But it's clear that his riches couldn't satisfy his deep down needs. That's why he came to Jesus looking for something that went beyond the grave. His wealth couldn't give meaning to his life. He was restless and seeking something more than the trappings that money can bring. And of course it's not as if he were some sort of villain who would find it hard to accept religion. He already was a religious person and a morally upright character. He said that he had kept all the commandments from his earliest days, so he had probably also fasted from food and tithed some of his wealth. When the other gospel writers recall this episode they tell us that the man was young and that he came from one of the leading

families. So by anybody's reckoning he's got a lot going for him: young, rich, reputable, religious, moral, thoughtful, common-sensed and humble. Yet he went away sad because the demands that Jesus made of him were more than he was prepared to accept. The incredible happened: God in Jesus told him exactly what to do in order to have eternal life. He had to give up all his wealth and give it to the poor. But this would affect his status, his reputation and his lifestyle. What gives meaning to your life? What do you consider the point of living is? Where do you look for what makes real sense of your days? Where have you put your treasure? Is it invested in the here and now or have you got your sights on something that will outlast this mortal existence? Being young, rich and even religious cannot get you into heaven. And when Jesus tells you how to inherit eternal life do you go away sad or do you start rejoicing?

**ATTENDANCE** at Mass last weekend was **394** and we received **£1,551.55** in the offertory (this included a large quarterly cheque). Thank you for your support for the parish. The Harvest Fast Day envelopes raised **£152** for Cafod's work, and the Building Fund received donations of **£54**. ♦ This week there is a retiring collection for the Needs of the Diocese. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes of the diocese. ♦ Next Sunday is World Mission Day, a day of prayer for the evangelisation of the world, and there will be a retiring collection for the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF), the Church's official organ for the support of the Foreign Missions. There are envelopes on the windowsills in the porch and leaflets on the table.