

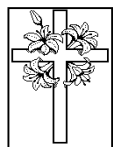
DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th OCTOBER 2009

✠ TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY ✠

Sun 18	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
Mon 19	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Patrick Lee RIP
Tue 20	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Alessandro Tizzano RIP
Wed 21	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ School at Mass: Eileen Magee RIP
Thu 22	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Elizabeth Buck RIP
Fri 23	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Mr and Mrs Lennon RIP
Sat 24	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Regina Szczygielska RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

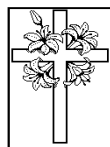
✠ THIRTIETH SUNDAY ✠

Sun 25	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Patrick Kiernan RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: William Azavedo RIP
		4.00pm	<i>October Devotions</i>



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

Patrick Lee, George McCann, Marie Marks,
Kenneth Lennon, Diana Martyn, Vincenza Rocco,
Regina Szczygielska and Christian Byrne.



*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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 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

18th October 2009

✠ TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY ✠

WORD of GOD

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

(Mark 10:45)



WORD for TODAY

Everywhere we look in the gospels we find that to be a follower of Jesus means to be a servant. And even when we might think that we have some position of authority, like James and John, the idea of service returns even more strongly. Christianity is an upside-down religion: anyone who wants to be great must behave like the least important.



WORLD MISSION DAY

Faced with the bad news that is violence, poverty, discrimination, uncontrolled technological development and lack of environmental concern, Pope Benedict reminds us of the urgent need to evangelise the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ: "Before this scenario, buffeted between hope and anxiety... and burdened down with uneasiness, with concern we ask ourselves: What will become of humanity and creation? Is there hope for the future, or rather, is there a future for humanity? And what will this future be like? The answer to these questions comes, to those of us who believe, from the Gospel. Christ is our future, and as I wrote in the Encyclical Letter 'Spe Salvi', his Gospel is a 'life-changing' communication that gives hope, throws open the dark door of time and illuminates the future of humanity and the universe."

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AROUND the PARISH

PREMISES SURVEY During the week we have been visited by a surveyor who is making a simplified structural survey of all our churches in the Diocese to identify and help those parishes most in need of assistance.

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

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

ELIZABETH BUCK RIP ✕ Betty Buck's funeral will be on Thursday 22nd October at 1pm at Bobbing Crematorium, Sittingbourne. ✕

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 (and deacons) of the deanery will be attending it is very unlikely that we will be able to provide Mass from Monday to Friday, 26th to 30th October. Apologies for any inconvenience. Any specific Mass intentions that were requested during that period will be honoured.

CEMETERY VISIT We will be praying for our deceased loved ones at Woodlands Cemetery at 3pm on Sunday, 8th November. This will replace the usual monthly Benediction.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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: REDEFINING SUCCESS At the back of an old cupboard in the rectory a vicar found a bowl with five eggs and £1,000 in it. He asked his wife what it was and she replied that every time he preached a bad sermon she put an egg in the bowl. Feeling flushed with success the vicar said, "Only five eggs over 25 years; that's not bad!" But his wife replied, "Well, dear, every time I collected a dozen I sold them for 50 pence!" Sometimes we have to redefine what success really is. And it becomes clear that what the world considers to be success is usually not what Christians are striving for. Even James and John were guilty in today's gospel of seeking preferment. The "favour" they asked of Jesus was to exercise authority and power in the kingdom that they believed Jesus was still going to establish here on earth. They wanted to be able to control, to have the power to command people, to restrict or grant access. Does this ring any bells? Listen carefully if you are a politician, a priest's housekeeper or a doctor's receptionist! Another sign of so-called success that many seek is wealth. Money is the ultimate goal of lots of people and they measure their place on the

social ladder by how much they have in the bank and how much they can splash out on what passes for success in our society. A luxury home, a yacht, the best car, designer clothes, gold jewellery, etc. Yet such people remain inconsolable at funerals... The success of power and money is joined by another false idol: fame. Some people would do anything to be famous, to have their fifteen minutes in the spotlight, to be known and recognised on the street. The thousands of "wannabes" who turn up for TV talent show auditions bear witness to this concept of success, as does the cult of personality which raises the status of people who contribution to making the world a better place is usually quite small indeed. So what is success? You'll know you're successful, says Jesus, when you find yourself slaving for the good of others, when you've learned to put yourself in second place and when you feel you are at other people's service so much that your life is being drained on their behalf. Perhaps you'd like to reconsider whether you really want to be a Christian!

ATTENDANCE at Mass last weekend was **394** and we received **£515.72** in the offertory. Thank you for your support for the parish. Last week's retiring collection for the Needs of the Diocese amounted **£189.33**. ♦ Our concert by the Siskins raised **£215** for our Building Fund. ♦ **This week** there is 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. ♦ CAFOD have written in appreciation of our recent offering of **£44.71**. They ask prayers for peace and justice for all those in need.

THE LAST WORD... "God does not ask for your ability or your inability. God asks only for your availability."