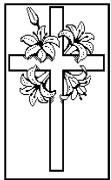


## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th January 2011

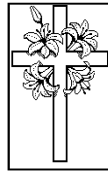
### ✠ SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠

<b>Sun 16</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Philomena Breach RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Annie Hanrahan
		4.00pm	<i>Malayalam Community Mass</i>
<b>Mon 17</b>	St Anthony	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Giovannagelo di Paolo
<b>Tues 18</b>	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Simone Antonio RIP
<b>Wed 19</b>	Feria	10.00am	✠ School at Mass: Holy Souls
<b>Thu 20</b>	Feria		<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Fri 21</b>	St Agnes	10.00am	✠ Mass: Tom Macken RIP
<b>Sat 22</b>	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Ann Regan RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
<b>✠ THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠</b>			
<b>Sun 23</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Teresa Fantetti RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Madeleine Eleftheriou
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism: Ariana Woodfine</i>

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



*Margaret Hannon, Ena Dean, Agnes Ryder,  
Baby Patrick Bray, Christopher Giles, Brian Ross,  
Winifred Thorlby, Bernard Moore, Rose Smyth,  
Jacqueline Hunt, Phyllis Gay, William Waller, Emily Harte,  
Violet Cook, Emanuella Psaila, John Sleator,  
Susan Darlymple, Rosemary McCarthy, Michael Dickinson,  
William Gavin and Dino Grancevola.*



*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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Email: [office@ourladyofgillingham.org](mailto:office@ourladyofgillingham.org)  
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 —

16h January 2011

### ✠ SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠

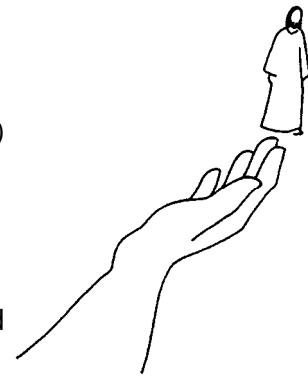
#### WORD of GOD

And now the Lord has spoken,  
he who formed me in the womb  
to be his servant.

*(Isaiah 49:5)*

#### WORD for TODAY

The best prayers are the simplest. Today the psalmist puts words into our mouths that help us to stay focused on what life is all about. He invites us to bring all our cares and concerns before God with complete trust, and to say, "Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will."



#### OCTAVE of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY (18th - 25th January)

'The Church in Jerusalem, yesterday, today, tomorrow.' Two thousand years ago, the first disciples of Christ gathered in Jerusalem experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and were joined together in unity as the Body of Christ. In that event, Christians of every time and place see their origin as a community of the faithful, called together to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Although that earliest Jerusalem Church experienced difficulties, both externally and internally, its members persevered in faithfulness and fellowship, in breaking bread and prayers. It is not difficult to see how the situation of the first Christians in the Holy City mirrors that of the Church in Jerusalem today. The current community experiences many of the joys and sorrows of the early Church; its injustice and inequality, and its divisions, but also its faithful perseverance, and recognition of a wider unity among Christians.

There is to be an **ecumenical service for Christian unity** on Sunday 23rd January at Gillingham Methodist Church, Third Avenue, at 6.30pm. For more information, please see the flyers in the porch.

## **AROUND the PARISH**

**PEACE SUNDAY** this weekend. As the Catholic Movement for peace in England and Wales, *Pax Christi* relies on our support to continue its work of peacemaking. Donation envelopes are available on the windowsills at the back of the Church for you to make your voluntary offerings. Please hand them in today. Thank you.

**Fr JAMES** Following a fall down some stairs Fr James is at home nursing a bumped head and fractured shoulder. Please remember him in your prayers.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE** One winner has come forward. There is still a hamper for the remaining prize winner, but they need to be quick as the contents will not last indefinitely!

**IRISH NIGHT** in the McMahon Hall this Friday, 21st January, 7.30pm. Come and enjoy an evening of music, dance and food. Tickets £6 each. Please book by signing up on the sheet at the back of the church. Bring your own drink.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS and READERS** Revised lists have been produced due to minor alterations. Please collect from your pigeon-hole.

**QUIZ NIGHT** Friday 28th January, 7.30pm. £5 per heard, bring your own drinks. Raffle.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS** Please keep in prayer our children who are busy preparing for their First Sacraments. The next session will be on Saturday 29th January at 5.30pm.

**BAPTISM** Please make initial enquiry to Deacon Michael or Fr Geoffrey after any Sunday Mass.

**Fr GEOFFREY** is taking a break from this Tuesday. We hope to be able to provide Mass during the week but with Fr James slightly out of action and a severe shortage of priests this may not be possible. However the church will be

open daily at the normal Mass times, apart from Thursday. Next Sunday we welcome Fr John Lawrence from Maidstone and the following weekend we have our annual diocesan appeal on behalf of the Missionary Society of St Columban.

## **AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND**

**PASSING on FAITH in the HOME** The Marriage and Family Life Team and the Christian Education Centre (CEC) Team are jointly running a day of reflection on *Passing on Faith in the Home*, looking at the importance of home and family in the community of faith. It will take place at the CEC, 21 Tooting Bec Road, London, SW18 8BS on Saturday 29th January from 11am to 3pm. All are welcome. There is no charge but donations are welcome. Please bring a packed lunch. For bookings and further details please contact Mary Boley at the CEC on 020 8672 7684/2422 or on office@cectooting-bec.org.uk.

**PREPARING to WELCOME the NEW TRANSLATION** The Christian Education Centre Team, in conjunction with the Diocesan Liturgy commission, will be leading three sessions on the new translation of the Roman Missal which is due to be introduced throughout the English-speaking world. The sessions, entitled Exploring the Context, Examining the Content and Experiencing the Celebration, will take place at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Rd, London, SW7 8BS on Thursday 3rd, 10th and 17th February between 7 and 9pm. All are welcome. There is no charge but donations are welcome. For bookings and further details please contact Mary Boley at the CEC on 020 8672 7684/2422 or on office@cectootingbec.org.uk.

**'I CALL YOU FRIENDS' - A NEW RE-**

**SOURCE** The Christian Education Centre is hosting a day to introduce a new resource named '*I Call You Friends*' which offers children (specifically those in non-Catholic schools) the opportunity to know and love God as they learn about and understand their faith. There are three books: Book 1 for children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion; Book 2 for those who have received Communion and Book 3 for children over eight years old who are preparing to be received in to the Church. The day will take place at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Rd, London, SW17 8BS on Saturday 12th February and will be facilitated by Sr Vicky Hummell assisted by Miss Bridie Stringer. Open to all-and especially parents, catechists, teachers and clergy. Cost is £10 per person. Please bring a packed lunch. For bookings and further details please contact Mary Boley at the CEC on 202 8672 7684/2422 or on office@cectootingbec.org.uk.

**VACANCY at St JOHN FISHER SCHOOL** The position of Senior Cover Supervisor is required from 1st April. Closing date for the receipt of applications is 24th January. Please see the noticeboard at the back of the church.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: NO ONE QUITE LIKE YOU** When a man and woman fall in love strange things happen. Each becomes absorbed in the other. They constantly think about each other. They want to know all about their partner and they find each other fascinating. There is nothing ordinary about your girlfriend or boyfriend because they seem special to you. So special, in fact, that you can't understand why everyone else doesn't see it. And you would do anything for them. You really love them. Is it possible, or even decent, that God should

have this sort of love for us? So often when we say that God loves us we mean it in a distant sense. It's like saying that we love French people. What we really mean is that we find them pleasant and we would do nothing to harm them. But there's a very different type of love between us and the French than that which exists between lovers. Today Isaiah reminds us of how exactly God loves us. Not in some remote and general way, but in an intimate and deep sense. God has loved each one of us since the moment he allowed us to start forming in the womb. And God is fascinated with us not just as members of the human race but as individual persons. That's because God made us and wants us to be happy and prosper. Each of us is special to God because God is not some sort of principle but is a person. As a person he craves a personal relationship with us. Not a hair on our head is lost without God noticing it and being concerned for us. For he loves everything that he has made. Part of the greatness of God is his ability to stoop down to our level and our petty concerns and worries. As a lover he is bothered about what bothers us. He knows and loves us so much that there is something he has entrusted to us that is unique. And if we are to respond to God's amorous overtures then we have to be prepared to use that uniqueness in his service. When God proposes, our response can only be that of the psalmist: Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will!

**ATTENDANCE** Around 500 people attended Mass last week; we received **£1,346.10** in the collection (augmented by a quarterly cheque). Thank you. ♦ Our White Flower Appeal is this weekend on behalf of SPUC for the protection of the unborn and vulnerable.