

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 1st MAY 2011

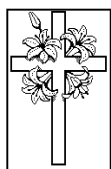
**✠ SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✠
Divine Mercy Sunday**

Sun 1	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Ciaran Michael Hicks</i>
		4.00pm	<i>May Devotions</i>
Mon 2	St George	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Holy Family
Tues 3	SS Philip & James	10.00am	✠ Mass: John Colman RIP
Wed 4	The English Martyrs	10.00am	✠ Mass: Bernadette Beare RIP
Thu 5	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Paul D'Souza RIP
Fri 6	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Reparation for Abortion
Sat 7	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Michael O'Keefe RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

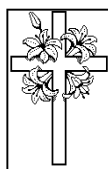
✠ THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✠

Sun 8	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Antonio Pereira
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Antonio Vallejo RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Summer Zoey Anderson</i>

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Lawrence Perris, Elizabeth Crosby, William Hurley, Margaret O'Sullivan, John Sullivan, John Bareham, John Edwards, Johanna Anderson, Isabella Cooper, Eileen Gillham, Anne Riddell, Nora Hackett, Robert Foreman and William Tuffin.



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—

1st May 2011

**✠ SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✠
Divine Mercy Sunday**

WORD of GOD

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.



(Acts 2:42)

WORD for TODAY

From the time of the apostles the followers of Christ have done their best to hold fast to what they have been taught, to share the common life of worship and to witness to their faith in Jesus. Today, like Thomas, we proclaim with our lives that Jesus is our Lord and our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." Alleluia!



Jesus I Trust In You!

Divine Mercy Sunday St Augustine of Canterbury (Parkwood and Wigmore), Deanwood Drive, Parkwood, Rainham, are holding Divine Mercy Devotions at 2.00pm today (Sunday) followed by Mass at 3.00pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during devotions. Father Adams welcomes all to this celebration. Refreshments after Mass in the narthex.

The Divine Mercy Devotion was actively promoted by Pope John Paul II, who canonized St Faustina and designated the Sunday after Easter as the Sunday of the Divine Mercy in the General Roman Calendar. John Paul II, who died in April 2005 on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, will himself be beatified today, Divine Mercy Sunday, by his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, in Rome.

AROUND the PARISH

MAY PROCESSION takes place today at 4pm beginning in the church, followed by tea, coffee cakes and biscuits in the McMahan Hall.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Next session this Saturday, 7th May.

MAY DANCE will be on 7th May at 7.30pm. Hot and cold snacks will be on sale, please bring your own drinks. Admission is £5.00 on the door and all proceeds will go towards the building fund.

FURNITURE We have a parishioner in urgent need of furniture and white goods. The Legion of Mary are trying to help, so if you have anything that could be useful, please contact Mary Bishop on 234039.

PARISH HALLS A decision will soon need to be made on the future of our parish halls. In order that parishioners can be made aware of the options, and give an opinion on the way forward, there will be a parish meeting on Friday May 13th at 7.00pm in the McMahan Hall.

CONFIRMATION this year will be on Friday 11th November at 7.30pm. Registration forms are now available and there will be a meeting on Monday 16th May at 7.30pm in the church hall.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

EASTERTIDE (*From the Directory*) In the Easter season each ferial day has its own Mass, without Gloria. There are four seasonal prefaces (the first Easter preface being proper to the Octave). On a memorial the preface may be of the saint or of the season. *Alleluia* is added to the Entrance and Communion antiphons and to the antiphons in the Divine Office unless the sense precludes it. The Sundays of Easter are of first class rank and have precedence over all other celebrations.

EASTER DUTIES The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, 19th June. Canon **2042** of *The Catechism*

states: The third precept ('You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season') guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.

The NEW DIRECTOR of the CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CENTRE is Fr David Gibbons. He is presently Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, Camberwell and has been for 10 years. After a short spell as a nursing auxiliary and as a teacher, he trained for the Anglican ministry of St Stephen's House, Oxford and gained a Post Graduate Certificate in Theology. After spells in three Anglican parishes in Blackpool, Wapping and Gillingham he was received into the Catholic Church by Bishop Jukes in 1994 and ordained as a Catholic Priest by Archbishop Bowen in 1996. Fr David has also been chairman of the diocesan Art and Architecture Committee for the past 11 years and a member of the Liturgy Commission.

A DAY WITH MARY is to be held at the National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham on Sunday 29th May.

DAY of REFLECTION A special day entitled, "The Sacredness of the Human Heart" is to be held at Aylesford Priory on Saturday 11th June (10am-4pm) for carers of those suffering from dementia. An opportunity to reflect quietly and pray with others who have a similar ministry. Booking is essential as places are limited. Cost £15 including a buffet lunch. Contact Rev Ray or Mrs Elizabeth Partridge: email e.partridge@hotmail.com or ring 01303 873835.

MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday 18th June, 3pm. Chief celebrant Archbishop Peter Smith. Couples celebrating their 1, 10, 25, 40, 50+ wedding anniversary are invited to apply for a personal invitation from the Archbishop to the annual Mass in celebration of marriage. They will be given

preferential seating in the cathedral. There will be a reception after Mass. Application should be made through the parish priest *by the end of April*. This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.

DAY in HONOUR of OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Simon Stock, Aylesford on 25th June. The theme of the pilgrimage is Humility, Holiness, Conversion of Heart, Silence and Reconciliation. Parishioners are invited to join for a day of prayer (11.00am-5.00pm). For further details please contact Anne Pass, Shrine Secretary, The Friars on 01622 717272 (email: shrine@friars.org.uk).

YOUTH FESTIVAL at AYLESFORD PRIORY Sunday 26th June, 10am-8pm. Young people currently in school years 8-11 are invited to a day of varied activities, music and celebration of Mass. For further information, contact Southwark Catholic Youth Service on 01227 272900.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES See the poster giving details of this year's pilgrimage from 19th-26th August. Details, together with this year's theme, may also be found on the Diocesan Website: http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/lourdes_2011.html.

FAITH IN FOCUS: CREED AND DEED I believe that the sun is more than 90 million miles away from the earth, although I've never measured it. I believe that Hong Kong exists, although I've never been there. I believe that Barack Obama is president of the United States, although I've never seen him in the flesh. It's not really very hard to believe in these things. We take them as read. And they don't really make that much difference to our day to day lives. Believing that something is true or false is an open and shut thing. When Thomas saw Jesus in the flesh he stopped doubting. But there's another

type of belief which asks much more of us. It's the type of belief that asks us to trust. For faith has two sides to its coin: it asks us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God risen from the dead, and then it asks us to trust our whole lives to him. This second side of the coin, trusting and abandoning ourselves to God, is much more complex and it's harder to sustain. When we go to hospital for an operation we believe that the man or woman standing in front of us is a surgeon. (God help us if we don't!) But we also need to believe in the person, to have confidence in letting ourselves be treated by the surgeon. Sometimes, in fact, we hear people saying that they have great faith in an individual. What they are really saying is that they trust the person to deliver. At Easter we make our annual renewal of faith in our baptismal promises. We profess belief in the articles of the Creed. But for the rest of the year we have to live out the other side of this faith. We have to abandon ourselves to God's loving care in all the ups and downs of our daily life, to trust when trusting seems pointless, to keep hoping when others tell us to give up. This is the sort of faith that makes real demands on us. Like us the early Church gathered together to listen to Christ's teaching that comes through the apostles and to celebrate the eucharist. Like us they knew that faith is to be found not only in creeds but also in deeds.

ATTENDANCE Over the Easter Triduum, **1,156** people (39 up on last year) attended services (**149** on Maundy Thursday, **264** on Good Friday, **157** at the Easter Vigil, **300** at the 9.30 and **286** at the 11). It is truly wonderful to see such numbers. Fr Geoffrey is very grateful to parishioners in contributing so generously to the collection (one of only two occasions in the year when the entire collection is personal to him). The Good Friday collection for the Holy Places amounted to **£292.02**.