

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 20th March 2011

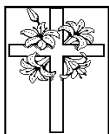
✘ SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✘

Sun 20	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Thomas Goldsmith RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Rita Keating RIP
Mon 21	Feria	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✘ Mass: John Saunders RIP
Tues 22	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Margaret O'Keefe RIP
		1.30pm	<i>Woodlands Cemetery: Funeral of Joan Deere</i>
Wed 23	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Gioconda di Rocco RIP
Thu 24	Feria	7.00am	✘ Mass: Mike Connor RIP
Fri 25	The Annunciation of Our Lord	10.00am	✘ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 26	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Franco Verdolini RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>

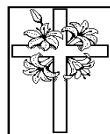
✘ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✘

Sun 27	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Paddy and Sarah McGrath RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Casella Palma RIP
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Jessica Corthorn</i>

Please pray for Veronika Swolanska who died recently;
and for the *following* whose anniversaries occur this week:



Darrell Frasz, Mary Hanna, Grace Fingleton,
Francesco Verdolini, Lorna Ryan, Fr. Pierre Barbyer,
Kathleen Hawkins, Martin (Pat) Knell, Pasqual Cavanagh,
George Bond, Colin Shepherd and Jean Howard.



*May their souls and the souls of all the ✘ faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



2A Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL
Phone (01634) 852979
Email: office@ourladyofgillingham.org
Website: 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 —

20th March 2011

✘ SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✘

WORD of GOD

Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you.
(Genesis 12:1)

WORD for TODAY

Faith in Jesus is an adventure. It's about taking risks and chances, about moving forward into uncharted waters. Once we feel on top of our faith, it's a sure sign that we've started to rest on our laurels and are beginning to miss out on the excitement.



FROM the ARCHBISHOP

New Translation of the Roman Missal



An official statement concerning the New Translation of the Roman Missal was made by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on 18th January: "The translation of the Roman Missal is now complete and the Holy See has given its recognition on the text. The bishops, following the Holy Father's encouragement that this new translation is an opportunity for 'in-depth cate-

chesis on the Eucharist and renewed devotion in the manner of its celebration', have decided that from September 2011 the Order of Mass in the new translation will be used in parishes in England and Wales. The Order of Mass contains those texts of both priest and people which are constant at each celebration of Mass. For 3 months from September 2011 until December 2011 there will be catechesis in parishes both on the new translation and on the Mass itself. This will precede the publication of the new Missal which at the earliest is expected by Advent 2011."

The Catholic Truth Society have been awarded the rights to publish the Altar Missal in England and Wales. See <http://cts-online.org.uk/news/?p=409>.

AROUND the PARISH

EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT During Lent we are again exposing the Blessed Sacrament from after the Saturday morning Mass till about 11.15 when a simple blessing will be given with the Blessed Sacrament. In view of this there will be no monthly Benediction in March or April.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY ENVELOPES will be collected this weekend. Please put them in the collection bags. Please ensure that all offerings for this cause are in a CAFOD envelope, or are clearly marked.

LENTEN RESOLUTIONS Here are a few suggestions for our Lenten resolutions: ✕ *Attend Mass another day during the week.* ✕ *Make the stations of the cross on Fridays.* ✕ *Choose your own method of fasting and self-denial.* ✕ *Make or increase your donation to those in need.* ♦ The Lenten Alms Box on the sanctuary is for the Cabrini Children's Society, or you may wish to donate to CAFOD or SVP by placing your offerings in one of the Box at the back of the church.

CONFESSION SWAP Next Saturday, 26th March, Canon Frank Moran, from Sheppey, will be guest confessor during exposition.

READERS List for Holy Week and Easter are now in your pigeon-holes. Please check these as soon as possible to ensure you are available as required. Please let the office know if there are any dates or times you cannot do. Many thanks.

EASTER GARDEN Come and have fun making an Easter Garden. Wednesday 6th April at 4pm in the McMahon Hall. All children welcome.

FUTURE PARISH EVENTS include

May Procession (1st May); May Dance (7th May); Barbeque (12th June). Note these dates in your diaries and further information will be available nearer the time.

LEGION of MARY meets every Friday afternoon in the McMahon Hall. If you are interested in joining or would like to find out more, please come along between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. After 3.00pm anyone is welcome to join us for refreshments and a chat.

CTS BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS are available at the back of the church. They cover various topics around the Catholic faith and beyond. There are also prayer and Mass books available in various languages. Specifically at this time, there are books relating to Lent and Easter. Please take a look, money for purchases can be deposited in the red wall box marked 'papers' on the adjacent wall. Additionally, if there are any other publications that you would like us to purchase, please let us know.

SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS These vouchers are very useful to our schools. Please collect and place them in the box at the back of the church.

BAPTISM Please make initial enquiry to Deacon Michael after any Sunday Mass.

UNCLAIMED RAFFLE PRIZES from our recent parish lunch: yellow **6ff** and **101ff**; pink **36ff**, **61ff** and **76ff**. Enquire at the presbytery.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

HOLY WEEK The Chrism Mass will take place on the Wednesday of Holy Week (20th April) in St George's Ca-

thedral at 11.30am.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE Parishioners' attention is drawn to the notice about this year's diocesan pilgrimage. The Archbishop has encouraged us to consider joining the Pilgrimage, together with any sick or housebound parishioners who may like to go to Lourdes as part of the Diocesan group. 'It would be good if all parishes could somehow be represented on the Pilgrimage', the Archbishop writes. The Lourdes Pilgrimage office contact information: telephone 07521 519 482, email: rcaspilgrim@btinternet.com. Details of the Pilgrimage together with this year's theme may also be found on the Diocesan Website.

FAITH IN FOCUS: MOVE ALONG, PLEASE! Peter is an endearing character. He quite often gets things wrong. But he only does what we ourselves would have done in the same circumstances. So today he gets a wonderful vision of Jesus in all his glory, talking with Moses and Elijah, and naturally he wants it to go on and on. So he suggests putting up three tents on the mountain as a memorial of the event, presumably hoping that it might happen again. If only faith could be like that! Once grasped and fixed for ever. But, of course, things in real life are very different, and when the disciples came down from the mountain they had soon to readjust to the hard world once more. We call Abraham our "father in faith" and put him up as a role model to be followed. In today's scripture God tests his faith. He tells him to leave his home, his family, and all his familiar surroundings, and go off on a long journey to a

place that God will point out to him. This will be a promised land where he and his descendants will prosper. This type of faith, being prepared to journey through life wherever God guides us, is very different from the cosier style that Peter wanted. It means being prepared to be uprooted time and time again by the events of life and the demands that God makes upon us. It's a journey rather than a destination. And we all feel more comfortable arriving somewhere than we do setting out into the unknown. Lent is a small stage in this lifelong journey of faith. What is God trying to tell you and me this Lent? How are we being asked to move along on the journey rather than stay comfortably still where we feel secure? For God never asks us to stand still. God's greatest delight is for us to grow, to move into an ever-deeper relationship with him. Once we reach a certain level in our faith, it is time not to build a shelter, but to move on to the next stage. And Lent is a mini stage on this long journey. Even though the final destination is clearly beyond our sight, where is it that God is calling us to be at the end of these forty days? None of us knows. But the one certain thing is that if we're to be faithful to God, then we'll have to move.

ATTENDANCE Last week **388** people attended Mass and we received **£673.00** in the collection; thank you. ♦ Friday was Lent Fast Day and there are envelopes on the windowsill in which you can put the money saved by cutting back on luxuries for one day. Please Include them in the collection. We will, of course, be collecting your savings throughout Lent.