

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 28th FEBRUARY 2010

### ✘ SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✘

<b>Sun 28</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Elizabeth Starkey RIP and welfare of family.
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
<b>Mon 1st March</b>	St David	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Zeuli Antonietta
		12.30pm	✘ <b>Requiem Mass: Joyce Terry</b>
<b>Tue 2</b>	Feria	10.00am	✘ <b>Requiem Mass: James Murphy</b>
<b>Wed 3</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Cosimo Larini RIP
<b>Thurs 4</b>	Feria	7.00am	✘ Mass: Francesco Cauteruccio RIP
<b>Fri 5</b>	Feria	10.00am	✘ <b>Requiem Mass: Ingeborg Sancto</b>
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
<b>Sat 6</b>	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Ben de Souza RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>
		2.00pm	<i>Children's First Confessions</i>
<b>✘ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✘</b>			
<b>Sun 7</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: James Fitzgerald RIP
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
		4.00pm	<i>Devotions and Benediction</i>

## OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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Registered Charity 235468

28th February 2010

### ✘ SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✘

#### WORD OF GOD

"My Lord, the Lord" Abram said,  
 "How am I to know that  
 I shall inherit this land?"

(Genesis 15:8)



#### WORD FOR TODAY

Faith wouldn't be faith if the route were sign-posted with certainties. It demands abandonment to and trust in God's promises. At this early stage of Lent we are once again given a glimpse of the glory that is on offer for those who persevere.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Lent is the final period for all of those people in our parishes throughout the diocese who are preparing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, through the process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. There are two types of people. The first are called candidates. Candidates are men and women already baptised in other Christian traditions, (or un-catechised, baptised Catholics), who seek confirmation and communion in the Catholic Church. So they are either people who worshipped in other Christian denominations, or Catholics who have never really been fully instructed and practised their faith. The second group are known as catechumens. A catechumen is someone who has never been baptised and is now receiving instruction and spiritual formation from a catechist and other friends and helpers in the principles of Christianity, with a view to being baptised and practising the Catholic faith. Such a person may come from no religious background or from another non-Christian faith.

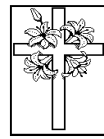
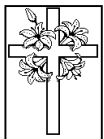
Throughout Lent there are liturgical celebrations for these people at parish and diocesan level. Whether we know a candidate/ catechumen personally or not, let us pray for them that Lent may be a period of deeper enlightenment before they finally reach the fullness of communion with us and the whole Church at the Easter Vigil Mass, where they will share the body and blood of Christ with us at the table of the Lord.



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

Patrick Kennedy, Albert Parris, John Tapley, Norman Lee,  
 Patrick Murphy, James Driscoll, Annie Jones, Alice Marriott,  
 Edmond Hamilton, David Hunt, Annie Brennan,  
 Phillip Flannery, Richard Smith, Emanuel Muscat,  
 David Keogh and Thomas Hynes.

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



## AROUND the PARISH

**RETURN APPEARANCE** Once again this week for the Sunday morning Masses we welcome Fr Michael Adams, Parish Priest of Parkwood and Wigmore. He and Fr Geoffrey are doing a straight swap. Welcome, once again, Fr Michael!

**RECOMMENDED FOR LENT** Here are a few suggestions for our Lenten resolutions: Extra prayer. • Acts of kindness to others. • Forgiving someone who has wronged you. • Participating at church by volunteering. • Taking part more attentively at liturgy and Eucharist. • Giving our time in service. • Using the Sacrament of Reconciliation. • Acts of service and charity. • Giving money to people who are hungry or in need abroad. • Giving personal possessions to local people in need: clothes, books, shoes etc. ✕ In addition we can take part in Stations of the Cross in the church every Friday evening during Lent at 7.30. ♦ The Lenten Alms Box, on the sanctuary, is for the Cabrini Children's Society, or you may wish to donate to CAFOD or SVP (the Poor box).

**FR PAUL** emails: 'I am happy to inform you that I had safe journey back to my place, as I said it on the phone. I reached Madras by 8.30am on 17th (local time) and reached Maria Rani by 2.30 in the afternoon, and I had First Mass at 6.30pm at Maria Rani and then went to Baddavole village for the second Mass at 8.30pm, for it was Ash Wednesday . . . I close this mail with lots of prayers and thanks.'

**DANIEL WEATHERLY** has been in touch and sent a copy of the CD made during his recital in our church last summer. We shall be playing excerpts from it. If people would like copies please let us know.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** There is a

meeting next Monday (8th) at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

**NEXT WEEK** We are led to believe that there will be an interruption to our electricity supply next Sunday morning.

**PARISH CENSUS** If you have not yet filled in one of the census forms, please pick one up from the windowsill in the porch and after filling it in, hand it to any of the church helpers.

**GIFTS** for First Communion or Confirmation. We have a catalogue in the repository, but please do put your order in early to allow time for delivery.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** Please keep our children in your prayers as they make their preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which they will celebrate in the church next Saturday, 6th March.

**INDIAN INDULGENCE MEAL** The next one will be on Sunday 25th April.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS PANELS** *Appointment of Panel members.* On behalf of the governing bodies of Catholic Schools in the Diocese, the Diocesan Commission for School and Colleges is currently seeking volunteers to sit on appeals panels. These panels hear appeals from parents who have not been offered places for their children at their preferred school. The panels work to a Code of Practice to provide an independent forum for parents and school governing bodies to present their respective cases. Panel decisions are binding on school governing bodies and on parents. A list of members will be maintained by the Commission and training will be provided during March and April to those appointed to the list. Please contact the Commission for an

application form and further information as soon as possible, either email: office@rcsouthwark.org.uk, or phone 01689 829331. Completed application forms should be in by 8th March.

**CALLED to PRIESTHOOD?** If you are a young man who feel you are (or even if you're not sure) see the poster outlining various vocations days next month.

**MARRIAGE CARE** There is a Marriage preparation course on Sunday 7th March to be held at Maplesden Noakes School, Buckland Road, Maidstone; £55 per couple. An application form is available from the office.

**A DAY WITH MARY** on Saturday 27th March at St Joseph's, London SE18. Details on the noticeboard.

**FAITH IN FOCUS** There's an air of anxiety in our scripture readings at the liturgy today. God shows Abram (before he became Abraham) that he will stand at the top of a lineage with many descendents and that he will take possession of the land. But Abram is still worried about the future: "My Lord, how am I to know that I shall inherit it?" And God has to reassure Abram, to keep him persevering in faith. The same is true with Peter, James and John. Jesus gives them a real boost to the their faith by letting them see him being transfigured on the mountain top, talking with Moses and Elijah...a sure sign that he is from God. But Peter, like Abram, is worried that things won't always be like this and so he tries to get three booths or tents set up to preserve the atmosphere of the moment. Both Abram and Peter are privileged to be in the presence of God, yet they are worried about the road ahead and whether or not they will really see things through. Sound familiar? No matter how

strong our faith is, we still have moments when we wonder what it's all about, whether we can cope with present difficulties and how we will match up to the demands of the future. Of course, that's what faith is all about. If faith were a manual of answers, an instruction book that couldn't fail, then it would no longer be faith. When we stop praying for perseverance in faith we have become muscular Christians who think they can reach heaven by religious effort. But as we go through life we come across people and events that strengthen our faith. It seems that when everything is rumbling on in a mundane way we suddenly are given a glimpse of what lies beyond. These mountain-top experiences boost our faith because they redirect our hope and recharge our enthusiasm. Last week we began Lent by looking at the temptations that lie in wait for us as we try to follow Christ. This week we are given a shot in the arm as we glimpse something of the glory of Jesus in the Transfiguration. So Lent isn't just about sin. It's also about faith, promise, perseverance, hope, dreams, compassion, trust, reconciliation and renewal. Have a Happy Lent!

**ATTENDANCE** Last week **361** people attended Mass and gave **£522.28** in the collection. The football parking yielded a very welcome **£161**, thank you to the stewards. ♦ **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. We have received a letter of thanks from the Cabrini Children's Society for the £130.85 from our Crib donations. ♦ **NEXT WEEK** There will be our annual White Flower Appeal at all Masses (postponed from last month).