

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 5th DECEMBER 2010

### ✠ SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT (A) ✠ BIBLE SUNDAY

Sun 5	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Mass: Verdolini family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: John and Anne Formosa
		4.00pm	<i>Advent Devotions and Benediction</i>
Mon 6	St Nicholas	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary (daily, 30mins before Mass)</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Francesco Cauteruccino RIP
Tues 7	St Ambrose	10.00am	✠ Mass: Franco Verdolini RIP
Wed 8	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00am	✠ Mass: Theresa and Steve Cottam
Thu 9	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Alice Cassidy RIP
Fri 10	Feria	7.30pm	✠ Mass: Casella Palma RIP
Sat 11	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Kevin Ketchen RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

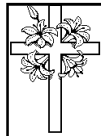
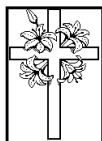
### ✠ THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT (A) ✠

Sun 12	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pearl Mathias RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:

Bryon Pennington, Ralph Trutwein, Robert Jenkin, John Knight,  
Harry Hazelden, Pearl Mathias, James Kitney,  
John Cochrane, Anna McCarthy, George Kavanagh,  
John Gay and Kevin Ketchen.

*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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Registered Charity 235468

5th December 2010

### ✠ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) ✠

#### WORD OF GOD

"I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals."  
*Matthew 3:11*



#### WORD FOR TODAY

John the Baptist's message of repentance is continuous, not something we do once and for all. We have to examine ourselves, our attitudes and actions daily. Do our lives make the kingdom of heaven more visible or do they obscure the view?

#### From the Archbishop's Pastoral letter read last weekend.

We could do no better this Advent than to reflect deeply on, and respond generously to, the Holy Father's challenge to each one of us, and especially his final words outside Westminster Cathedral: "I ask you to look into your hearts each day to find the source of all true love. Jesus is always there, quietly waiting for us to be still with him and to hear his voice. Deep within your heart, he is calling you to spend time with him in prayer. But this kind of prayer, real prayer, requires discipline; it requires making time for moments of silence every day. Often it means waiting for the Lord to speak. Even amid the "busy-ness" and the stress of our daily lives, we need to make space for silence, because it is in silence that we find God, and in silence that we discover our true self. And in discovering our true self, we discover the particular vocation which God has given us for the building up of his Church and the redemption of our world." My prayer for this Advent is that we shall all discover a little more about our true selves and be given the grace to fulfil more generously the particular vocation God has given us.

With an assurance of my prayers and blessing for you all,

✠ Peter

Archbishop of Southwark

## **AROUND the PARISH**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** Rotas for January to June 2011 are now ready. Please collect from your pigeon-hole.

**CHRISTMAS** cards, Advent Calendars, art calendars, and Christmas candles are just a few of the items on sale from the repository. Please support the church and buy your Christmas items here. All items will be on sale in the McMahon Hall after both Sunday Masses.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** Preparations for next year's First Reconciliation and Eucharist begin in December. A meeting for parents is scheduled for 7pm this Monday, 6th December in the McMahon Hall.

**BOOT FAIR** An indoor Boot Fair will be held in the Hall next Saturday, 11th December at 10.30am. Tables can be booked prior to the event for £5 and on the day for £6. If you wish to book a table ring the church office on Monday, Thursday or Friday morning. However, if you do not wish to book a table but have good quality items for sale these can be donated to the church for the sale. Donations can be left at the church after any Mass. Money raised will go to the Building Fund.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS TIMETABLES** will be available next week - *don't leave Mass next weekend without a copy.*

**MASSES** This year's diary is full and next year's diary is beginning to fill up. If you wish to book a Mass, please call in the sacristy after Mass, or into the parish office on a Friday morning.

**CONTACT the ELDERLY** The Medway Deaf Group are looking for volunteers. Contact the Elderly are planning to open a third Medway group to take out to tea, once a month, elderly local deaf people with their driver/signers. Being elderly and alone is difficult but

even more so for people who are also deaf. We need volunteer driver/signers, volunteer hosts and an Admin Assistant for a few hours a month. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Suzan Hyland on 020 7420 5811 or email: [suzan.hyland@contact-the-elderly.org.uk](mailto:suzan.hyland@contact-the-elderly.org.uk). There is a postcard on the noticeboard explaining a little more.

**WALK WITH ME** 'A Journey of Prayers for Advent and Christmastide 2010' booklets are now available at the back of the church priced £1.00.

**CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY** There are some new publications relating specifically to Advent, together with a variety of pamphlets (including a prayer book in Polish and English, with translations of the Mass) available on the windowsill in the porch. There you will find traditional aids to our faith such as prayer books and devotions, but in addition you will find challenging and topical subjects. All are reasonably priced so please have a look, and if you wish to purchase any the money can be put in the red box on the back wall marked "Newspapers". If you would like a pamphlet giving guidance on any particular issue, please leave a note in the office and it can be included, if available, in the next order sent to CTS.

## **AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND**

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS** Christmas Catalogue is available at the back of the church. Capture the true spirit of Christmas and make a lasting difference to someone fighting poverty.

**ADOPTIVE FAMILIES NEEDED** The Cabrini Children's Society is seeking to recruit adoptive families for the large number of children who desperately need new parents. They need Catholic

families for single children, groups of brothers and sisters, children with disabilities and children from black and other minority groups. All the children have experienced loss and trauma, but all can benefit from family life. If you feel you have something to offer please ring them - a telephone call doesn't commit you to anything but they would like to hear from you. Please contact them at the Cabrini Children's Society, 49 Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 2XB. Telephone 020 8668 2181 or Email [adoption@cabrini.org.uk](mailto:adoption@cabrini.org.uk) mentioning 'Parish Campaign'.

**CABRINI CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** We have received the following email: 'You are all invited to attend Cabrini Children's Society Carol Service on Wednesday 15th December in the presence of Bishop John Hine. The event starts at 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, Southwark. For more information contact Ann Hoggan on 020 8668 2181, email [ann.hoggan@cabrini.org.uk](mailto:ann.hoggan@cabrini.org.uk) or Caroline Bennett on 07866 695183, email [caroline.bennett@cabrini.org.uk](mailto:caroline.bennett@cabrini.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you there.'

**DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE** have published their recent issue of the Messenger of Mercy magazine. Copies available at the back of the church.

**FAITH IN FOCUS** "The kingdom of heaven is close at hand," John proclaims. And the liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom he has come to bring. The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today's first reading and psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David - a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father. He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy

Spirit, endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit - wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel - but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek him and pay him homage. In him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham, renewed in God's oath to David, will be fulfilled in his dynasty. And his name will be blessed forever. In Christ, God confirms his oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in today's epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for his mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise". John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham. Now, God will raise up living stones - children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit. This is the meaning of the fiery baptism he brings - making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

**ATTENDANCE 400** people attended Mass here last week and we received **£546.94** in the collection. ♦ The collection for the upkeep of the Cathedral amounted to **£265.87**. Thank you. **Next week** there will be a retiring collection to offset the cost of flowers and decorations for the altar at Christmas. Thank you.

**50/50 CLUB** winner this month was M. Hopper with No. 3. December's collections will take place after Mass today, see John Formosa.