

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 25th OCTOBER 2009			
✠ THIRTIETH SUNDAY ✠			
Sun 25	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Patrick Kiernan RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: William Azavedo RIP
		4.00pm	October Devotions
Mon 26	Feria	8.00am	✠ Mass: Wellbeing of Adeote
Tue 27	Feria	9.45am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Wed 28	SS Simon and Jude	9.45am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thu 29	Feria	7.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri 30	Feria	8.00pm	✠ Mass: Mary and Henry McDermott RIP
Sat 31	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
		10.30am	Confessions
✠ ALL SAINTS ✠			
Sun 1st Nov.	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Judy Luckhurst RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Nicola Di Lisio RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

25th October 2009

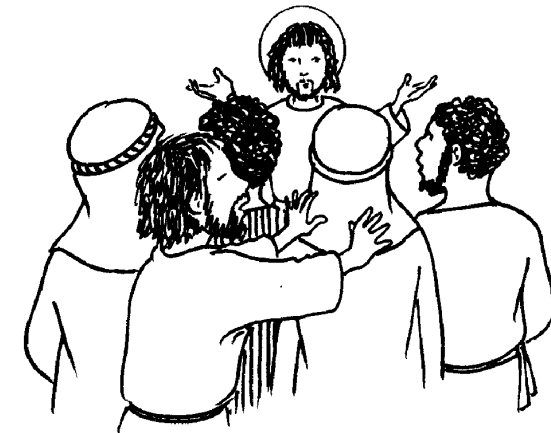
✠ THIRTIETH SUNDAY ✠

WORD of GOD

The blind man said to him,
 "Master, let me see again."
 And Jesus said to him,
 "Go; your faith has saved you."
 (Mark 10:51)

WORD for TODAY

We so often take our eyes of faith for granted. What do we see that we wouldn't if we didn't believe in Jesus? When we look at the world do we simply see it in the same way as the news presenters tell us? Or do our eyes of faith see more clearly?

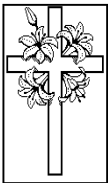


NOVEMBER: the Month of the Holy Souls. Envelopes are available for you to enclose a list of your deceased loved ones. The envelopes remain in front of the altar throughout the month. Any donations in the envelopes are used as stipends for Masses for the Holy Souls throughout the year. Remember to Gift Aid your offering if possible.



✠ We hope to be able soon to publish a 'Book of Remembrance' with the names of those who have died since our parish was set up and whose names are recorded in our parish registers. ✠

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



William Azavedo, Muriel Welsh, Katherine Prysiazniuk, Eileen Rodbard, Paul Read, Agnes Haighton, Carmela Sordillo, Kathleen Hemmings, Heather Stowell, Pascal D'Armenia, Violet Lewis, Joyce Plummer, Eileen Hanlon and Margaret Kleman.



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

AROUND the PARISH

THIS WEEK Fr Geoffrey, Fr James and Deacon Michael join clergy from all over Kent on a retreat in Merville, France. As a result, there will be a service of Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion instead of Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There will be an early Mass on Monday and a late Mass on Friday. Please see the times on the back of the newsletter.

CEMETERY VISIT We will be praying for our deceased loved ones at Woodlands Cemetery at 3pm on Sunday, 8th November. This will replace the usual monthly Benediction.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS If your child is not in a Catholic School, but is in year 4 or above and you wish him/her to make the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, please see Fr Geoffrey for a form. A meeting for parents is scheduled for 7pm on Monday 9th November in the McMahan Hall.

INDIAN INDULGENCE There is a list at the back of the church for the parish lunch on 29th November.

PARISH VISION There will be a Parish Vision meeting some time in November in the McMahan Hall. *The date announced last week has had to be changed owing to a clash with the First Communion meeting above.*

CHRISTMAS CARDS Please remember to check our repository for a very good selection of Christmas Cards and other seasonal items.

DON'T MISS OUT is a campaign to ensure that anyone caring for a young, old or vulnerable person receives everything they are entitled to. Even if you have claimed benefits before but been turned down, it is worth checking it out now. There is a Carer's event in the Franklin Rooms from 10-2 on 29th October, a drop in session in Gillingham Library at from 9 - noon and an information stand in

Gillingham Market on 2nd November. See the poster in the porch.

FROM THE APF "Thank you very much for your generous contribution to last week's World Mission Sunday collection. Your prayers and kindness will help missionaries across the world continue their work at the service of the poor and excluded. Please pray for all those working to offer the love of Jesus that they may remain strong in their witness of Christ's love for everyone, especially the most vulnerable."

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

ANNIVERSARY The Carmelites at Aylesford thank the parishes of the diocese for the tremendous support that has been given to Aylesford Priory over the years. They are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Return of the Friars to Aylesford on Saturday 31st October. Parishioners are welcome to join them for the Gathering Service at 12noon and Mass at 2.30pm. See the notice.

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES NEEDED (A message from Cabrini.) The Cabrini Children's Society is seeking to recruit adoptive families for the large number of children who desperately need new parents. We 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 us – a 'phone call doesn't commit you to anything but we would like to hear from you. Please contact us at the Cabrini Children's Society, 49 Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 2XB. Telephone 020 8668 2181 or email adoption@cabrini.org.uk mentioning 'Parish Campaign'.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS There are prayer cards for priests on the window-

sills in the porch. Please take one, and also a list of the priests in the Diocese from the table.

A FRESH LOOK at Baptism and Confirmation on Saturday 14th November and at Reconciliation and Holy Communion on Saturday 28th November. An opportunity to explore the theory and practice of these Sacraments. Both days will be held at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Totting Bec Road, SW17, 10.30am to 2.30pm. See the notice in the porch.

TOWARDS ADVENT The annual Towards Advent Festival of Catholic Culture takes place on Saturday 14th November at Westminster Cathedral Hall. Displays by a wide range of Catholic groups and organisations, talks, music, a chance to browse and buy Catholic books, DVDs and devotional items. Refreshments available all day; play corner for children. Official opening 10.30am with Archbishop Vincent Nichols and the Chamber Choir of the London Oratory School. Admission free. Everyone welcome.

FAITH IN FOCUS: RISING TO THE OCCASION The blind man in today's gospel, Bartimaeus, was no shrinking violet. He was a beggar at the entrance to the bustling town of Jericho and if he didn't make his presence felt then he would go home at the end of the day with nothing to show for his hours in the baking sun. And this affected what he did on the day Jesus passed by. Bartimaeus didn't complain about his lot in life; he accepted responsibility for it, not sitting back and expecting someone else to stand in for him because of his disability. And he was strong-minded enough to know what he really needed and wanted: to be able to see. Never giving up hope, he believed that things could be different and that he could change. And when other people told him to be content with his lot he took no notice. He wasn't bothered about what others would think of him and he

resisted their attempts to silence him. This coloured his approach to Jesus since he knew that this might be the only occasion he would ever get to attract Jesus' attention. Throwing off his official beggar's coat, jumping up and shouting was a dramatic way of catching Jesus' eye. But Bartimaeus rose to the occasion and took his chance. And when Jesus cured him, Bartimaeus followed him along the road. In this short episode we can see our own lives reflected very clearly. In our relationship with God we carry so much baggage that prevents us from seeing things clearly. We can be spiritually blind in so many ways. We can fumble our way through life always several paces away from God. For a while we sit back and moan but eventually we have to face up to the fact that in many areas we are the architects of our own problems. God did not make us spiritually disabled yet we choose to remain so. What do I really need to happen in my life in order to come closer to God, and do I believe that with God's help I can change? What holds me back from asking for God's help? Is it because I'm afraid of what others will say and think? Is it because I don't think now is quite the right time to do it? Am I prepared to make a definite move in God's direction, to rise to the occasion with some bold and decisive step to reply to God's invitation? Do I really want to see? Do I really want to follow? Do I really want a Bartimaeus moment?

ATTENDANCE We welcomed **371** people to Mass last weekend and received **£554.86** in the offertory. The World Mission Day collection came to **£148.15** and the Building Fund received a donation of **£25**; thank you. The table sale also raised **£170** for the building fund - our thanks to all those who donated, organised the sale and purchased items. The Building Fund now stands at **£25,000**.