

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 8th NOVEMBER 2009

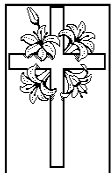
✕ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY (Remembrance Sunday) ✕

Sun 8	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Thomas Goldsmith RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: For the dead of War
		3.00pm	<i>Blessing of Graves, Woodlands Cemetery</i>
Mon 9	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
Tue 10	St Leo the Great	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Salvator Lanzi RIP
Wed 11	St Martin of Tours	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ School at Mass: Peter Gunthorpe RIP
Thu 12	St Josaphat	7.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Fri 13	St Francis Xavier Cabrini	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Sat 14	Our Lady	10.00am	✕ Mass: Una and Brian Callaghan RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

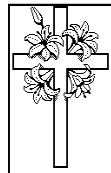
✕ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ✕

Sun 15	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Dec'd members of Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Alfredo Cannavina
		4.00pm	✕ <i>Mass: for the Malayalam Community</i>

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Nina Lepore and Basil Farmer, recently dead, and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:



Denzil Bannister, Reginald Rowswell, James Fitzgerald, George Jones, Thomas Toogood, Jason Charles, Vincenza Parsons, Eugenio Grosso, Violet O'Keefe, Francis Murrells, Patrick Collins and Thomas Goldsmith.



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 Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

—Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468—

8th November 2009

✕ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ✕

WORD of GOD

A poor widow came
and put in two small coins,
the equivalent of a penny.

(Mark 12:42)



WORD for TODAY

The story of the widow's mite is a reminder to us that it's not what we give that's important, but how and why we give.

Do we seek recognition for our donations or do we make them in recognition of what has first been given to us?

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



AROUND the PARISH

CEMETERY VISIT We will be praying for our deceased loved ones at Woodlands Cemetery at 3pm this Sunday, Remembrance Sunday. This will replace this month's Benediction. ✕ Remember to pick up a copy of our Book of Remembrance, containing the names of many of our beloved dead from the parish.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS A meeting for parents is scheduled for 7pm this Monday in the McMahan Hall.

A MASS for deceased members of the Knights of St Columba will be offered in our church on Wednesday 18th November at 8.00pm. Please inform any friends or relatives whom you know.

PARISH VISION There will be a Parish Vision meeting on Monday 23rd November at 7.30pm in the McMahan Hall.

HOUSING PROBLEMS? If you are a home owner or private tenant please note that the Council is holding a two day Housing Advice Drop In at the Sunlight Centre in Richmond Road on 24th and 25th November. If you would like advice on assistance for repairs, or advice and assistance if you are in private rented, then do drop in. There will also be someone to advise on energy efficiency in the home. If you cannot attend, then ring the Private Sector Housing Team on 333066.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH There will be a Christmas lunch in the Parish Centre on Sunday 20th December. £10 per head and £6 for children. A full Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Lists will be available at the end of this month.

PARISH HISTORY In an effort to help document and digitalize our parish history, photographs and documents are being made available on the parish website. To view them, log on to www.ourladyofgillingham.org and click on Photo Gallery. Any additions are welcome. If you have any documents, photographs, etc. relating to the parish or clergy, please see John Allison.

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

GILLINGHAM FOOTBALL When our team are at home our church car park is used by both home and away team supporters. This provides us with valuable income (usually around £170 per match). If you can offer your services twice a month on a Saturday lunch time to collect money and marshal the cars please do let us know. So far this season the takings have amounted to just short of **£1,800**. Our thanks to those who already help.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

VACANCY for a part time cleaner at St John Fisher School. Closing date for applications is 13th November, please see the notice on the schools notice board in the porch.

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

TOWARDS ADVENT The annual To-

wards 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 Arch-bishop Vincent Nichols and the Chamber Choir of the London Oratory School. Admission free. Everyone welcome.

MARTIN of TOURS (*11th November*) Martin was born in present-day Hungary in 316, the son of an officer in the Roman army. As a young man he was gaoled for being a conscientious objector. In France he came under the influence of St Hilary of Poitiers and eventually became a monk and later Bishop of Tours. Popular tradition recalls that he gave his cloak to a beggar and later had a dream in which he saw Christ wearing it. He was buried on this day in 397 and in later years his shrine at Tours became a famous stopping-of point for pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela. In England there used to be a feast at this time of the year called "Martinmas". Celebrated in his honour, it was a time for salting the meat for the winter season and for hiring new servants.

FAITH IN FOCUS: GIVING At Sunday lunch the family were moaning about what had happened at church. The priest's sermon was rubbish, the choir out of tune and the church cold. Then the youngest child silenced everyone by saying, "Still, it wasn't bad for only £1." The episode about the widow's mite teaches us a lot about giving. First of all there's the question of what we give. Obviously the amount is not the most important aspect of giving because it's relative. The widow put two coins worth a penny into the collection whereas the richer people dwarfed her contribution by the size of their donations. But presumably we

should expect richer people to provide more revenue. Clearly, the amount given may bear no relationship to the wealth of the person. And Jesus pointed out to his disciples that in fact the widow had given much more than all the others. Secondly, there's the business of how we give. When we see some sort of appeal for helping children or providing food and drink to people struck by famine, how do we react? Do we begrudgingly put our hands in our pockets and cough up as little as we can without seeming miserly? When envelopes drop through our doors asking for money for charity, what do we feel like? God loves a cheerful giver, according to St Paul, but sometimes we give begrudgingly. The widow could have kept one of her two coins but she gave willingly. And she gave everything she had. Thirdly, there's the issue of why we give. Some people give things to churches and then have a plaque made to let everyone know that they are the donor. Such recognition has already been rewarded. But there's another sort of recognition: reverse recognition. We can give out of recognition of what we ourselves have been given. We give because we are conscious of being blessed by God in so many ways and our giving-back is just a token of our gratitude. God gave his only Son and his only Son gave his life for us. So giving implies a what, a how and a why. And by willing giving her all, the widow got all three of them right.

ATTENDANCE Last weekend we welcomed **330** people to Mass, and they gave **£614.25** in the collection. The sum of **£141.94** was sent to the Missionary Society from emptying the red APF boxes. Please remember to collect your empty box from the porch. ♦ This week there is retiring collection for our **Diocesan Clergy Support Fund** which helps finance clergy in-service training and gives assistance to our sick and retired priests.