

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 15th NOVEMBER 2009

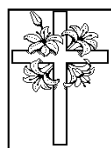
✠ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ✠

Sun 15	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Dec'd members Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Alfredo Cannavina
		4.00pm	✠ Mass: for the Malayalam Community
Mon 16	Feria	9.45am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Parents of Arthur Grainger
Tue 17	Feria	9.45am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Neral Masih RIP
Wed 18	Feria	10.00am	✠ School at Mass: Joseph Cardwell RIP
		8.00pm	✠ Mass: Deceased Knights of St Columba
Thu 19	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Andrew Read RIP
Fri 20	Feria	10.00am	✠ Requiem Mass: Nina Lepore
Sat 21	Presentation of Bl. Virgin Mary	10.00am	✠ Mass: Delcie Crack RIP
		10.30am	Confessions

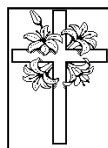
✠ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING ✠

Sun 22	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Bernard McKenna RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Lucy Singh, in thanksgiving
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		12.30pm	Baptisms: Daisy Allison and Ruby Wilson

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:



Patrick Collins, Thomas Goldsmith, Norman Hope, Mary Kitney, Bernard Dowd, Alice Pollock, Michael Simmonds, Giuseppina Pizzuto, Andrew Read, Alfredo Figueira, Joseph Cardwell and Derek Gormon.



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 Priest Fr Geoffrey Pointer
 Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

—Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468—

15th November 2009

✠ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ✠



WORD of GOD

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

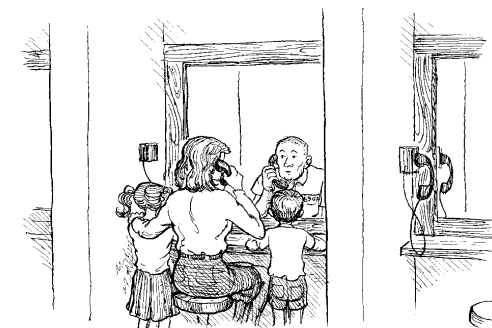
(Mark 13:26)

WORD for TODAY

Nobody knows the date when Christ will come again. Rather than concern ourselves with useless worry amid fears of natural disasters and cosmic cataclysm, surely it's better to prepare ourselves for seeing God face to face by a life of fruitful service?

PRISONERS' SUNDAY (November 15th)

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.
 We pray for those in prison.
 Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.
 Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.
 Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime.
 Help us to forgive one another, to act justly,
 to love mercy and to walk humbly,
 together with Christ,
 in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.
 Amen.



AROUND the PARISH

THANK YOU and welcome back to Fr Kevin Fitzgerald who is celebrating the Sunday morning Masses this week. Fr Geoffrey is at a Confirmation Mass for his godson in London.

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

CAR PARK We would be grateful if most parishioners would park in the rear car park on Sunday mornings, leaving the front car park places free for those who do not find it so easy to walk. During the next few weeks we will be contacting the owners of cars parked in our premises to request that the front car park be kept only for dropping off and picking up.

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

INDIAN INDULGENCE LUNCH Sunday 29th November - please make sure that your name is on the list in the porch. Prizes for the raffle would be greatly appreciated, and the organisers would also like volunteers to help with serving and clearing up. Anyone who can help, please ring 313053.

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

St JOHN FISHER SCHOOL have a vacancy for an examinations officer (temporary contract to cover maternity leave). Please see the notice on the schools notice board. Closing date for applications is Monday 23rd November.

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.

FAITH IN FOCUS: BACK SOON People have constantly predicted the end of the world and the second coming of Christ. At the time of St Paul there was a widespread belief that Jesus would return during their lifetime. A century later Hippolytus calculated that Jesus would return in 500AD. In 968 Otto's army panicked at an eclipse that they took to be the end of the world; and the first millennium, 1000AD, got people frightened, encouraging preachers like Wulfstan to predict the Last Judgement and the end of the world. 1666 was a famous year for predictions, accompanied by the plague and the Great Fire of London. (Not to mention 666, the number of the beast!) And after several hastily rescheduled predictions of the end of the world by the Jehovah's Witnesses in the 1970s we had to put up with all the hysteria that surrounded the start of the second millennium. In the face of all of this, Jesus is very clear: "But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven,

nor the Son; no one but the Father." (Mk 13:32) Nobody knows it. Nobody. For Christians part of the problem is a failure to understand the nature of Christ's preaching about the end of time. It is a type of preaching known as apocalyptic, which is a coded way of speaking and writing. His hearers would not have taken literally the idea of the sun being darkened, the moon losing its brightness and the stars falling out of the sky. They knew it was a way of creating an effect when preaching, of disclosing material to those in the know while at the same time hiding the meaning from others. And apocalyptic writing and preaching contains huge amounts of symbolism, dreams and imagery that has to be interpreted by the code-breaker before it can be understood. So when we hear of famines, epidemics, terrorist attacks, global warming or earthquakes how do we react? If we think that this is a sign of the end of the world or the coming of Christ then we might as well join all the other failed predictors of history. Rather than worrying about impending doom, wouldn't we be better off preparing to meet our God by living the sort of lives that he wants us to live and that he told us about in his Son Jesus? But if I were you I'd get round to doing something about it fairly quickly. Because you never know!

ATTENDANCE Last weekend we welcomed **389** people to Mass, and they gave **£548.39** in the collection. Next Week there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Youth Service. The retiring collection for the Clergy Support Fund came to **£232.55**. Parking for the football match yielded **£167**; thank you to the stewards. We have also received **£45.60** for the latest emptying of the recycling skip and **£40** donations to the Building Fund.