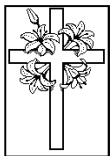


DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd January 2011

✠ THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠

Sun 23	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Teresa Fantetti RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Madeleine Eleftheriou
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism: Ariana Woodfine</i>
Mon 24	St Francis de Sales	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Rowley (intentions)
Tues 25	The Conversion of St Paul	10.00am	✠ Mass: Tom Gallagher RIP
Wed 26	St Timothy & St Titus	10.00am	✠ Requiem Mass: Michela Libertucci
Thu 27	Feria		NO MASS
Fri 28	St Thomas Aquinas	10.00am	✠ Mass: Michael & Mary Julian
Sat 29	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Holy Souls
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠			
Sun 30	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Mass: Andrew Campbell RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Tom Gallagher RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		1.00pm	<i>Baptism: Caitlyn de Belen</i>

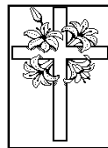
Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Leonard Charrington, Ivan Flannery,

Thomas Macken, John Gordon

and Andrew Campbell



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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 Phone (01634) 852979
 Email: office@ourladyofgillingham.org
 Website: www.ourladyofgillingham.org
 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—

23rd January 2011

✠ THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠

WORD of GOD

The Lord humbled
 the land of Zebulun and Naphtali,
 but in days to come
 he will confer glory on them.

(Isaiah 8:23)



WORD for TODAY

As Jesus begins his preaching mission the scriptures point to him as the Light of the world. To follow Jesus in our daily lives means to be called from despair to hope, from sadness to joy, and from darkness into light.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day – a day observed every year in remembrance of the Holocaust (Shoah) when six million Jews, as well as many other people, were sent to concentration and death camps. It exists so that we can learn the lessons of the past to build a better future. The theme for this year's day is 'Untold Stories.'

Speaking about the day, Sister Clare Jardine, Secretary to the Committee for Catholic-Jewish Relations at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said: "It is very important that Catholics engage with Holocaust Memorial Day. This year's theme speaks to us about the way we treat other people, especially those who are different and vulnerable. Even small incidents of hatred can escalate and lead to prejudice, discrimination and racism. We just have to look at the world today to see many examples of these negative attitudes. One of the most terrible outcomes of hatred was the Shoah or Holocaust. Today we are asked to think about those who stand up to hatred. Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans were members of a non-violent resistance organisation called the White Rose who demonstrated in the 1930s against the Nazi regime in Germany. During the Holocaust many people had the courage to stand up to the hatred they saw around them, demonstrate resistance or rescue the victims of hatred."

AROUND the PARISH

A WARM WELCOME to FR. JOHN LAWRENCE who is with us from Maidstone to celebrate Mass this weekend while Fr Geoffrey is away.

Fr JAMES Following a fall down some stairs Fr James is at home nursing a bumped head and fractured shoulder. Please remember him in your prayers.

Fr GEOFFREY is now on his break. We hope to be able to provide Mass during the week but with Fr James slightly out of action and a severe shortage of priests this may not be possible. However the church will be open daily at the normal Mass times, apart from Thursday. Please refer to the newsletter, or to the parish website for updated information.

NEXT WEEKEND Fr. Tom Ryan will be with us next weekend to celebrate Mass and also to make the annual Mission Appeal on behalf of the Missionary Society of St Columban. A poster will be on display on the noticeboard and there will be a retiring collection with all proceeds going to the appeal.

AFTERNOON TEA. Every Friday afternoon at 3.10pm in the hall. Just an opportunity to sit and have a chat with friends and a cup of tea with a cake or biscuit. **EVERYONE WELCOME.** This will be hosted by the Legion of Mary as part of their parish work.

QUIZ NIGHT This Friday (28th January) at 7.30pm. £5 per head, bring your own drinks. There will also be a raffle.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Please keep in prayer our children who are busy preparing for their First Sacraments. The next session will be on **Saturday** 29th January at 5.30pm.

BAPTISM Please make initial enquiry to Deacon Michael or Fr Geoffrey after

any Sunday Mass.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

VACANCY at St JOHN FISHER SCHOOL The position of Senior Cover Supervisor is required from 1st April. Closing date for the receipt of applications is **24th January**. Please see the noticeboard at the back of the church.

PASSING on FAITH in the HOME The Marriage and Family Life Team and the Christian Education Centre (CEC) Team are jointly running a day of reflection on *Passing on Faith in the Home*, looking at the importance of home and family in the community of faith. It will take place at the CEC, 21 Tooting Bec Road, London, SW18 8BS on Saturday 29th January from 11am to 3pm. All are welcome. There is no charge but donations are welcome. Please bring a packed lunch. For bookings and further details please contact Mary Boley at the CEC on 020 8672 7684/2422 or on office@cectooting-bec.org.uk.

PREPARING to WELCOME the NEW TRANSLATION The Christian Education Centre Team, in conjunction with the Diocesan Liturgy commission, will be leading three sessions on the new translation of the Roman Missal which is due to be introduced throughout the English-speaking world. The sessions, entitled Exploring the Context, Examining the Content and Experiencing the Celebration, will take place at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Rd, London, SW7 8BS on Thursday 3rd, 10th and 17th February between 7 and 9pm. All are welcome. There is no charge but donations are welcome. For bookings and further details please contact Mary Boley at the CEC on 020 8672 7684/2422 or on

office@cectootingbec.org.uk.

'I CALL YOU FRIENDS' - A NEW RESOURCE The Christian Education Centre is hosting a day to introduce a new resource named '*I Call You Friends*' which offers children (specifically those in non-Catholic schools) the opportunity to know and love God as they learn about and understand their faith. There are three books: Book 1 for children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion; Book 2 for those who have received Communion and Book 3 for children over eight years old who are preparing to be received in to the Church. The day will take place at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Rd, London, SW17 8BS on Saturday 12th February and will be facilitated by Sr Vicky Hummell assisted by Miss Bridie Stringer. Open to all-and especially parents, catechists, teachers and clergy. Cost is £10 per person. Please bring a packed lunch. For bookings and further details please contact Mary Boley at the CEC on 202 8672 7684/2422 or on office@cectootingbec.org.uk.

FAITH IN FOCUS: QUITE A SURPRISE We all have our own prejudices. Some of us wouldn't touch a German white wine if it were on prescription. Others would always go for a week's bed and breakfast at Mrs Higginbottom's boarding house in Eastbourne rather than a luxury holiday abroad in the sun. A new fashion design business would have an uphill struggle if it opened in Scunthorpe and a gourmet restaurant would have to prove itself to survive in West Bromwich. (Apologies to anyone who lives in these towns!) The same was true in Jesus' day. Of all the chic places to be found, the land of Zebulun and Naph-

tali, in northern Palestine, was not exactly at the top of the list. It had been attacked by the Assyrians and many people had been deported. So it's with a sense of irony that Matthew remembers Isaiah's prophecy about how God would make these places great. And now the eyes of the world look to Zebulun and Naphtali as the place from which God's promised Messiah has come. We have to fight against letting our prejudices get the better of us. For our God is a God of surprises. Just when we think we have got it all sewn up and we know what to expect, God pops up in the most unusual of circumstances and makes a nonsense of our best predictions. The pages of religious history are littered with the underdog proving victorious. That's because God doesn't march to the same beat as we do. God is bigger than we can ever imagine and he chooses to work things out in his own way and not in ours. It's only our puny expectations that prevent us from doing great things. We have learned not to expect much, even of God. And although God tells us to pray for the Holy Spirit in our lives so that we will accomplish wonders and marvels, we sometimes need some convincing. As this year of Matthew's gospel unfolds we will be invited to set no limits on what God can do in our lives, to expect the un hoped for, to await more than we could ever dream of. Alternatively we could put our faith on hold and try another week at Mrs Higginbottom's. There are no surprises there.

ATTENDANCE 319 people attended Mass last week; we received **£600.55** in the collection. The total raised for last weekend's White Flower appeal will be announced in due course.