

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 24th January 2010

### ✕ THIRD SUNDAY (C) ✕

Sun 24	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Jean Hartnett RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Family and Loved Ones of Mrs Smith
Mon 25	Conversion of St Paul	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Gelsi Antonietta
Tue 26	St Timothy & St Titus	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Pat Knell
Wed 27	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Ben de Souza RIP
Thu 28	St Thomas Aquinas	7.00am	✕ Mass: Michael O'Brien RIP
Fri 29	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Kathleen McEvans RIP
Sat 30	Our Lady	10.00am	✕ Mass: Palma Casella
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>
<b>✕ FOURTH SUNDAY (C) ✕</b>			
Sun 31	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: May & Les Pengelly RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP

## OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



2A Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL  
 Phone (01634) 852979  
 Email: [office@ourladyofgillingham.org](mailto:office@ourladyofgillingham.org)  
 Website: [www.ourladyofgillingham.org](http://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 —

24th January 2010

### ✕ THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕

#### WORD of GOD

He has sent me  
 to bring good news to the poor,  
 to proclaim liberty to captives  
 and to the blind new sight,  
 to set the downtrodden free,  
 to proclaim the Lord's year of  
 favour.

(Luke 4:18-19)

#### WORD for TODAY

We get ourselves into so many different tight corners, do things that we wish we hadn't and end up stressed out. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there could be a day set aside for wiping the slate clean for all our actions and setting right our relationship with God and others? There is. It's called the Lord's time of favour. And it's today.



#### SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT...

We can join Pope Benedict in his prayer intentions for the month of January:

##### Young people and Social Communications Media

General:

That young people may learn to use modern means of social communication for their personal growth and to better prepare themselves to serve society.

##### Christian Unity

Missionary:

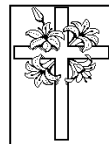
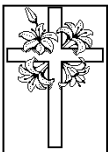
That every believer in Christ may be conscious that unity among all Christians is a condition for more effective proclamation of the Gospel.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Chris Giles, recently dead,  
 and of the following,  
 whose anniversaries occur this week:

Ivan Flannery, Thomas Macken, John Gordon,  
 Andrew Campbell, Horace Haslam and Patrick Kennedy

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



## AROUND the PARISH

**PARISH CENSUS** We hope to be conducting a census over the coming weeks, once the weather has settled down.

**LADIES.** Many thanks to all those ladies from the Parish who gave up their time last Saturday to entertain the ladies from the Ammadiyah Mosque, and from three nearby Churches. You laid on a magnificent tea and our lovely Church was greatly admired. Again, thank you to those who come in every Friday morning to clean the Church and arrange the flowers. We had about 50 people in all and are looking forward to the return invitations.

**FOUR DAY TRIP TO ROME** for those aged 10-18. The dates are from 6th to 9th April 2010 and the cost is only £285 to include hotel, flights and insurance. Join Fr James and Deacon Michael for a wonderful experience in glorious sunshine. See Pope Benedict and the Vatican and attend Mass inside St Peter's. As a bonus there will be swimming, football, ice cream and great food! This will be Fr James' 8th trip to Rome with young people. There are only 6 places left on this trip, so phone Fr James ASAP on 01634 854844 for further details.

**ALTAR SERVERS** Lay members of the Church are encouraged to engage in active participation in the Mass and parish life. If there are any people who have made their First Communion and wish to become altar servers, they are welcome to join the Guild of St Stephen. Please see Fr Geoffrey or John Allison, the parish M.C. Thank you.

**ROADWORKS** You will have noticed the roadworks on Railway Street across the bridge. This is to raise the kerb and

stop vehicles mounting the pavements. The work is being carried out as a safety measure for the many school children using that footpath, and is expected to last for around four weeks.

**LEGION OF MARY.** The Legion of Mary will be undertaking Parish visiting over the next few months, as well as regularly visiting those who sick or housebound. You are very welcome to come along to meetings which are every Thursday morning in the Presbytery at 10.30.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**CHRISTIAN UNITY OCTAVE** (18th-25th January) The following prayer is one that has been suggested for us to use during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010:

Take us from where we are, to where you want us to be; make us not merely guardians of a heritage, but living signs of your coming Kingdom; fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people; fill us with that faith, hope and love which embody the Gospel; and through the power of the Holy Spirit make us one. That the world may believe, that your name may be enthroned in our nation, that your Church may more effectively be your body, we commit ourselves to love you, serve you, and follow you as pilgrims not strangers.

**A DAY WITH MARY** We have received notices of the various *Day with Mary* events for this year, together with a poster of the various pilgrimages. These are displayed on the noticeboards in the porch.

**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY** The Christian Education Centre in Totting Bec are running a variety of courses and celebrations during the year, both in

London and at Aylesford. There is a poster on the noticeboard detailing the various activities, and also individual notices with more details.

**RITE OF ELECTION** For all those wishing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church there will be a service at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 20th February. There will be a preview evening on 9th February at The Hermitage, West Malling. Details on the notice board in the porch. Please contact Deacon Michael if you wish to attend.

**MARRIAGE 2010** There will be marriage preparation courses on Sunday March 7th, Sunday 9th May and Sunday 6th June, all provided by Marriage Care. The cost of the course is £55, and details and an application form are available from Fr Geoffrey.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: ABOUT TO START** In some of our cities we have a church on almost every street corner. But in the whole of Israel there was only one Temple and that was in Jerusalem. The priests went there to offer sacrifices for people's sins and needs. But in every place where at least ten men could meet, no matter how small a village it might be, there was a synagogue. Every Sabbath there was a simple liturgical service that took place there and was led by the local community members. It was a plain affair with readings from the Jewish scriptures followed by a commentary on them in the form of a homily or sermon. It was to one of these places that Jesus went when he returned to his hometown of Nazareth. He read a text from Isaiah about being anointed to bring freedom to those who were oppressed in different ways. Then he made the incredible claim that this text was being fulfilled here and now as

his audience listened. Even though Jesus had gathered a reputation already as something of a preacher, this proved too much for his listeners and next Sunday we'll see what happened. But for today, what was Jesus really claiming? In a nutshell he was claiming that a new age was beginning. In the Old Testament people had been waiting for "eschatological" times, times that would usher in a new age when God's kingdom would hold sway. There would be signs that this new age was about to begin: prisoners would be set free, the lame would walk, the deaf hear and the blind see again. Every fifty years the Jews held an amnesty year in which the slate was wiped clean, debts were settled and property returned to rightful owners. Jesus tells his audience that here and now one of these amnesties is about to start; it will be the Lord's year of favour. Over the next few weeks, and throughout the gospel of Luke, we will see that Jesus has inaugurated this new age of favour between God and his people. And we'll discover that it was to last more than a year. Today as the gospel is proclaimed in our churches God still offers this favour. If you want to, you can make it happen for you even as you listen to God's word. Or you can wait and see how the people responded next week in Luke's gospel.

**ATTENDANCE.** Last weekend we welcomed **375** people to Mass, and we received **£534.76** in the collection. You also donated a very generous **£623.25** to the Haiti earthquake fund, and the building fund received a donation of **£500**. Thank you. The retiring collection for Peace Sunday will be held **this weekend**.

Please note that next week there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Education Service.