

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th March 2011

### ✠ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

<b>Sun 27</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Paddy and Sarah McGrath RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Casella Palma RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Jessica Corthorn</i>
<b>Mon 28</b>	Feria	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary and Martin O'Reilly
<b>Tues 29</b>	Feria	10.00am	✠ Requiem Mass: Weronika Swolanska
<b>Wed 30</b>	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Sheila Carroll RIP
<b>Thu 31</b>	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
<b>Fri 1</b>	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: In Reparation for Abortion
		7.30pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Sat 2</b>	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Rose Ward RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>

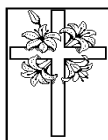
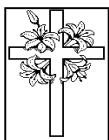
### ✠ FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

<b>Sun 3</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo <i>and</i> Tara McKay RIP
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism: Rhiannon Barker</i>

Please pray for the *following* whose anniversaries occur this week:

*Brenda Corcoran, Doreen Stone, Les Ross, Ivy McCann,  
Eva Perfect, Margaret Campion, Cyril Fleming,  
Cecilia Maynard, Jane Liston, Weronika Oszywa,  
Barry Caruana, Angelo Cilloni,  
Derek Knapp and Edwin Wickens.*

*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 —

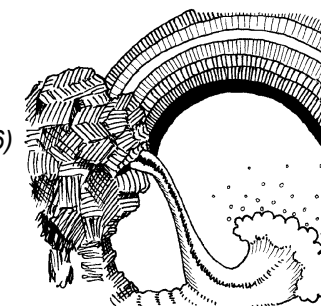
27th March 2011

### ✠ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

#### WORD of GOD

You must strike the rock,  
and water will flow from it  
for the people to drink.

*(Exodus 17:6)*



#### WORD for TODAY

For Christians the living water spoken of in today's scriptures is the gift of faith. To know and love Jesus Christ is to drink a water which satisfies at the deepest levels. In the midst of life's dryness it quenches our thirst.

#### THE SEASON OF LENT

All the liturgy of Lent is addressed to the celebration of Easter, both for the catechumens in their various stages of preparation, and for the faithful, who recall their own baptism and do penance for their sins.

During Lent:

- ferial Masses are proper to each day: on weekdays the collect of the saint of the day may be used in place of the ferial one;
- Votive Masses and daily Masses for the Dead are not permitted [this does not refer to the Mass *intention*].
- no Gloria, except on feasts and solemnities;
- excepting feasts and solemnities, including the fourth Sunday of Lent, flowers are not used, and the organ is played only to sustain the singing;
- Alleluia is not said, even on feasts and solemnities: care should be taken in this respect in the choice of hymns and gospel acclamation;
- there are four prefaces for Lent and two for Passiontide: some Sundays have a proper preface;
- Lenten Alms, for the Cabrini Children's Society, are collected throughout the season;
- the time now commences for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion [Easter duties].

## AROUND the PARISH

**EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT** During Lent we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from after the Saturday morning Mass till about 11.15 when a simple blessing will be given with the Blessed Sacrament. In view of this there will be no monthly Benediction in March or April.

**LENTEN RESOLUTIONS** Here are a few suggestions for our Lenten resolutions: ✠ *Attend Mass another day during the week.* ✠ *Make the stations of the cross on Fridays.* ✠ *Choose your own method of fasting and self-denial.* ✠ *Make or increase your donation to those in need.* ✠ The Lenten Alms Box on the sanctuary is for the Cabrini Children's Society, or you may wish to donate to CAFOD or SVP by placing your offerings in one of the Box at the back of the church.

**READERS** List for Holy Week and Easter are now in your pigeon-holes. Please check these as soon as possible to ensure you are available as required. Please let the office know if there are any dates or times you cannot do. Thank you.

**EASTER GARDEN** Come and have fun making an Easter Garden. Wednesday 6th April at 4pm in the McMahon Hall. All children welcome.

**A CHARITY EVENING in aid of CAFOD** (with emphasis on the Japan crisis) has been arranged for Friday 8th April, 8.00pm onwards (following Stations of the Cross). Come and join in the music, singing and dance, whilst supporting a very good cause. Light refreshments provided. Bring your own drink. Tickets £5.00. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

**LEGION of MARY** meets every Friday afternoon in the McMahon Hall. If you are interested in joining or would like to find out more, please come along between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. After 3.00pm anyone is welcome to join us for refreshments and a chat.

**CTS BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS** are available at the back of the church. They

cover various topics around the Catholic faith and beyond. There are also prayer and Mass books available in various languages. Specifically at this time, there are books relating to Lent and Easter. Please take a look, money for purchases can be deposited in the red wall box marked 'papers' on the adjacent wall. Additionally, if there are any other publications that you would like us to purchase, please let us know.

**CAR PARKING** We have had a written complaint about carelessness. There are currently only three designated disabled parking spaces and all are urged to park responsibly and not use these bays unless they hold a blue disability badge. If you can walk, please use the back park and leave the front parking area for those less able parishioners. Thank you.

**PLAYGROUP SPRING FAYRE** is on Monday, 11th April 2011 in the McMahon Hall from 1 - 3pm.

**SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS** These vouchers are very useful to our schools. Please collect and place them in the box at the back of the church.

**BAPTISM** Please make initial enquiry to Deacon Michael after any Sunday Mass.

**UNCLAIMED RAFFLE PRIZES** from our recent parish lunch: yellow 6ff and 101ff; pink 36ff, 61ff and 76ff. Enquire at the presbytery.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE** is inviting young people and those who support them to create a million minutes of silence as an expression of solidarity and as a way to raise money to provide grants for new and existing projects throughout England and Wales as well as overseas. For more details go to [www.millionminutes.org](http://www.millionminutes.org).

**A DAY WITH MARY** is being held at St Joseph's, Herbert Road, Shooter's Hill on Saturday 9th April. Please see the poster.

**HOLY WEEK** The Chrism Mass will take place on the Wednesday of Holy Week (20th April) in St George's Cathedral at

11.30am.

**YOUTH FESTIVAL at AYLESFORD PRIORY** Sunday 26th June, 10.00am-8pm. Young people currently in school years 8-11 are invited to a day of varied activities, music and celebration of Mass. For further information, contact Southwark Catholic Youth Service on 01227 272900

**BRIGHTLIGHTS FESTIVAL at AYLESFORD PRIORY** 1st - 4th July. Join the Southwark Catholic Youth Service for the 3 day/night Catholic young adults festival for 16 - 30year olds. A great weekend with a variety of prayer, bands, worship and international speakers. For Bookings, contact [www.brightlights.org.uk](http://www.brightlights.org.uk).

**A WEEKEND FOR MEN** is being organised by Harvesters, A Catholic Men's Network. The weekend takes place from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, 8th to 10th July. There will be several speakers over the weekend including Barry Mizzen, who with his family, has been a great witness to the country in how he offered forgiveness to the killers of his young son Jimmy. Anyone interested in attending should take a look at the poster at the back of the church.

**DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE** Parishioners' attention is drawn to the notice about this year's diocesan pilgrimage. The Archbishop has encouraged us to consider joining the Pilgrimage, together with any sick or housebound parishioners who may like to go to Lourdes as part of the Diocesan group. 'It would be good if all parishes could somehow be represented on the Pilgrimage', the Archbishop writes. The Lourdes Pilgrimage office contact information: telephone 07521 519 482, email: [rcaspilgrim@btinternet.com](mailto:rcaspilgrim@btinternet.com). Details of the Pilgrimage together with this year's theme may also be found on the Diocesan Website.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: TAKE A GOOD DRINK** Water does three things. The most obvious thing it does is to wet. Whatever water comes into contact with, it changes. The sound of children squealing with delight at

the end of a hosepipe is a familiar one. So is the groan of someone caught in the rain without an umbrella. If water gets on you, then you're no longer the same. For better or worse! Water also cleans. We use it to wash in since it is one of the best agents we know of for taking away stains and dirt. Perhaps it's not surprising that when Christians think of water they often associate it with baptism's role in cleansing us from original sin. The psalms too speak frequently about being washed from sin and made whiter than snow. Yet it's not this aspect of water that Jesus emphasises in today's gospel. It's the third function of water: water refreshes and brings life. All over the world today there are men and women standing in our churches who are asking to be admitted to the Church community, to be baptised, to become Christians. And the gospel addressed to them on this day is about the gift which Jesus promises: water to take away your thirst and lead you on to eternal life. If you are to be a Christian, then it's because you find the message of Jesus so attractive that no other drink will satisfy you. The promise of Jesus reaches the parts that no other drink can reach. And what a promise this is! Jesus tells us that our deepest yearnings and longings will be satisfied. In him life begins to make sense, priorities start to change, the will of God becomes our only goal. So as thousands of would-be Christians stand before congregations today and ask to be given this living water, we use the opportunity to count our own blessings and to thank God for the gift of faith which we often take for granted but which we know is a well from which we can draw water in times of drought, and a spring that offers us eternal life.

**ATTENDANCE** Last week we received **£529.25** in the collection; the Lent Fast collection came to **£209.58**; thank you. We have received a letter of thanks from the White Flower Appeal for our recent donation of **£114.14**. The 50/50 winner of **£51** for March was Number 59, W Tuffin. Subscriptions for April are being collected after Mass **this weekend**.