

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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Registered Charity 235468

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 7th MARCH 2010			
✠ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✠			
Sun 7	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: James Fitzgerald RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		4.00pm	<i>Devotions and Benediction</i>
Mon 8	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Tue 9	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Dennis Thompson RIP
Wed 10	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ School at Mass: Michael and Mary Julian
Thurs 11	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Jones RIP
Fri 12	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Dec'd members of Bishop Family
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 13	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Andrew Campbell RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>
✠ FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✠			
Sun 14	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Intention of Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Angiolina Fantetti RIP

7th March 2010

✠ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. But unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

(Luke 13:4-5)

WORD FOR TODAY

We all think that we have plenty of time to get round to sorting out our lives and our relationship with God. But today's gospel warns us that we never know what's around the corner; besides, what's so undesirable about God that we would we want to put off committing ourselves fully to him?



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.

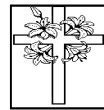
During Lent:

- 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].

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



John Rooney, Mary Hewson, Allan Ferla, William Grant,
 Olive Swinstead, Samuel Hunter and Freda Jarmack.



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

AROUND the PARISH

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT Here are a few suggestions for our Lenten resolutions: Extra prayer. • Acts of kindness to others. • Forgiving someone who has wronged you. • Participating at church by volunteering. • Taking part more attentively at liturgy and Eucharist. • Giving our time in service. • Using the Sacrament of Reconciliation. • Acts of service and charity. • Giving money to people who are hungry or in need abroad. • Giving personal possessions to local people in need: clothes, books, shoes etc. ✕ In addition we can take part in Stations of the Cross in the church every Friday evening during Lent at 7.30. ♦ The Lenten Alms Box, on the sanctuary, is for the Cabrini Children's Society, or you may wish to donate to CAFOD or SVP (the Poor box).

WELCOME Further to an initiative suggested at the Parish Vision Meeting we are appointing a team of *Welcomers* who will focus on spotting and making welcome new arrivals in our parish, assisting in assimilating them into our community. For non-Catholics the welcomers will assist in following the Mass, navigating the Mass book and explaining the various items of veneration around the church. Hopefully they will then be taken to the hall for tea or coffee and a chat. If you are interested in helping the parish in this way, please speak to Jerry who will be in the porch after all Masses this weekend.

A BIT LATE? We are always pleased to welcome everyone to our Masses, and we appreciate that there are times when for unavoidable reasons people have to come in after the service has started. If the Word of God is being read, we would ask that you remain

quietly at the back of the church before finding a place. Thank you.

DANIEL WEATHERLEY has been in touch and sent a copy of the CD made during his recital in our church last summer. We shall be playing excerpts from it. If people would like copies please let us know.

FINANCE COMMITTEE There is a meeting this Monday (8th) at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

PARISH CENSUS If you have not yet filled in one of the census forms, please pick one up from the windowsill in the porch and after filling it in, hand it to any of the church helpers.

GIFTS for First Communion or Confirmation. We have a catalogue in the repository, but please do put your order in early to allow time for delivery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Please keep in your prayers our children who have made their first Reconciliations this weekend. Their next meeting is on Saturday 13th March.

INDIAN INDULGENCE MEAL The next one will be on Sunday 25th April.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

FROM BISHOP JOHN In a recent communication to the clergy from Bishop John Hine, Diocesan Administrator, Bishop John wrote as follows: 'As you know our Chrism Mass this year is scheduled for the Wednesday in Holy Week and will be a celebration of priesthood, arising from our Holy Father's initiative about the 'year for the priest'. It will also be our opportunity to thank Archbishop Kevin for his leadership of our diocese and to make a presentation to him at the end of the Mass. All parish priests are asked to inform their people of this opportunity to express both our gratitude to him and our sadness that

our Archbishop has not been able to continue.' Next Sunday, therefore, there will be a second collection for Archbishop Kevin. Cheques can be made payable to the 'Archdiocese of Southwark'.

AYLESFORD RETREATS See the notice about Day Retreats at the Friars next weekend and also on Saturday 27th March.

A DAY WITH MARY on Saturday 27th March at St Joseph's, London SE18. Details on the noticeboard.

FAITH IN FOCUS LAST CHANCE SALOON? I always meant to sort out that kitchen shelf and now that it's crashed to the floor with all the crockery it's too late. The same goes for that little chip in the windscreen that now looks like a spider's web, and of course there's that faulty old plug on the TV set which probably caused last night's loud explosion during Coronation Street! We love to put things off. Yes, we'll get round to them some day but at the moment I'm a bit tired, a bit busy or a bit too distracted to do anything about them. There's always tomorrow. In today's gospel, one of the most frightening episodes according to many people, Jesus issues a real warning. Don't think that you can put off repentance until tomorrow because repentance is a "now-thing" and, what's more, you never know what's lurking around the corner. He reminds his listeners of two awful events that had just taken place in and around Jerusalem: a murderous attack on worshippers in the Temple, and a disaster that killed eighteen people when a building collapsed on them. Do you think these people had any idea they wouldn't return home that day, says Jesus, and do you think they were more guilty than anyone else? Of

course not. Then, he tells them, you too must repent now or you will perish like they did. Lent reminds us that repentance is not a once-and-for-all action; we don't make a grand act of repentance and then sit back and relax. Repentance is a constant activity of the Christian, not continually worrying about our stance before God, but striving all the time to be as close to God as we can by the way we treat other people. Repentance means taking a regular reality check that what we are doing and saying is consistent with our desire to belong to God's family. And although we concentrate on repentance a great deal in Lent, it is something that should be a daily activity for all of us, and we need to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be able to repent. Is there something in your life that niggles at you? Something that you know you should do something about which will improve your quality of life with God and with others? Well, don't worry about it; you can always do something about it tomorrow, after Easter, in the summer or in the run-up to Christmas.... Or perhaps not!

ATTENDANCE 342 people attended Mass last weekend, and the offertory collection to support the parish came to **£466.01**. The Fast Day collection for CAFOD yielded **£77.98** and the receipts for the football parking came to **£144**. This week we have our annual White Flower appeal and there will be a retiring collection to support the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. We have received a letter from Pax Christi thanking us for the £148.08 we collected for Peace Sunday. The winner of February's 50/50 Club was Mrs M Cardwell with £47.50. We shall be collecting for March next Sunday.