

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th APRIL 2010

✠ THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✠

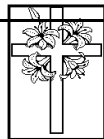
Sun 18	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Jean Babbington RIP
		<i>12.30pm</i>	<i>Baptism: Regan Wilson</i>
		<i>4.00pm</i>	<i>Malayalam Mass</i>
Mon 19	Feria	<i>9.45am</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Tino Mosca RIP
		1.30pm	✠ Requiem Mass: William Murphy
Tue 20	Feria	<i>9.45am</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Patrick Walsh RIP
Wed 21	St Anselm	<i>9.45am</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Ciaran Duffy RIP
Thu 22	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Joan Fogarty RIP
Fri 23	St George, Patron of England	<i>9.45am</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Canon Thomas McMahon RIP
		12noon	✠ Requiem Mass: Mary Crack
Sat 24	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Giovanni Caporiccio
		<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✠

Sun 25	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Chiarina Nasillo & Maria Fantetti
11.00am		✠ Mass: Gelsi Antonietta	
<i>12.30pm</i>		<i>Baptism: Zack Harwood</i>	
<i>1.30pm</i>		<i>Baptism: Kiann Suba</i>	



Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following,
whose anniversaries occur this week:
Canon Thomas McMahon,
Kathleen Timson, Rose Mullan, David Savage, Tino Mosca,
Bill Kinnear, Anthony Bunting, Ciaran Duffy, Jeremy Rafferty,



OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



2A Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL
 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]

Registered Charity 235468

18th April 2010

✠ THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

Jesus said,
 "Bring some of the fish you have just caught;
 come and have breakfast."
(John 21:10-12)



WORD FOR TODAY

The disciples met the risen Lord over a simple meal. Today we meet Jesus in many guises, in words and events, in faces that look to us for love and in those in need. But the most sublime way in which we meet Jesus is when we form part of his body, the Church, which gathers to eat his body and drink his blood.

BY GEORGE! *(Friday 23rd)*

We all know the story of how George killed a dragon that was terrorising a village and became a symbol of the Christian soldier who fights against evil for the sake of Christ. His feast has been celebrated on April 23rd in England since 1222. But George is also claimed by many other places. He is patron saint not only of England but also of Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany and Greece; and of the cities of Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Venice. Besides being adopted by these places he is also invoked as the patron saint of soldiers, archers, cavalry and chivalry, farmers and field workers, butchers, riders and saddlers, and he helps those suffering from leprosy, plague and syphilis. In recent years he has been adopted as patron saint of the boy scouts. It is thought that the flag of St George was ordered by Richard the Lionheart to be worn on the breast as part of the uniform of all his soldiers to identify them on the field of battle, and the saint's name has been invoked in oaths across the centuries: By George!

AROUND the PARISH

NEXT SUNDAY there will be no tea and coffee after Mass because we have the Indian Indulgence lunch. Anyone who is willing to help with this, please ring 313053. Donations of raffle prizes would be appreciated.

UCM. It is with great sadness that we have to announce that after 50 years in Gillingham our Union of Catholic Mothers has had to close. Unfortunately membership has dwindled so it is no longer viable to run it. Our thanks for all those who have participated over the years.

EXPOSITION During the *Year of the Priest* we expose the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays after the morning Mass for the duration of Confessions.

FIRST COMMUNIONS The next session for the children will be on Saturday evening, 24th April, at 5.30 in the McMahan Hall.

INDIAN INDULGENCE LUNCH NEXT SUNDAY at 1.00 pm. £6 for adults and £1 for children under 10. Please put your name on the list in the porch NOW if you wish to attend. Please bring your own wine / beer.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS In response to a suggestion from the Vision group, Mass on the First Friday of each month will in future be celebrated in English *ad orientem* in the evening at 7.30. This will begin in May.

MISSION APPEAL on behalf of the Holy Ghost Fathers will take place at Masses on the weekend of 16th May. Please support this appeal.

VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOLS Some supermarkets are again giving vouchers for school equipment. Please collect them and put them in the marked box on the windowsill in the porch.

These are a great help to our parish school in providing extra items for the children.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

EASTERTIDE (*From the Directory*) In the Easter season each ferial day has its own Mass, without Gloria. There are four seasonal prefaces (the first Easter preface being proper to the Octave). On a memorial the preface may be of the saint or of the season. *Alleluia* is added to the Entrance and Communion antiphons and to the antiphons in the Divine Office unless the sense precludes it. The Sundays of Easter are of first class rank and have precedence over all other celebrations.

EASTER DUTIES The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, 30th May. Canon **2042** of *The Catechism* states: The third precept ('You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season') guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.

ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS' RALLY See the poster for this event on Monday 3rd May at Aylesford.

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER (MEDWAY) 2010. This event will take place on 23rd May. Further details in a week or two, but if you are interested in helping out please call 07712 271598.

DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR LIFE. Tuesday 27th April 2010. This is the 43rd anniversary of the legalisation of abortion, please pray and fast for

the end of abortion and euthanasia. For details phone the Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740.

MASS in CELEBRATION of MARRIAGE This annual Mass is for couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and beyond wedding anniversaries. At St George's Cathedral on Saturday 12th June at 3pm. Couples are invited to apply, thus securing a personal invitation and special arrangements on the day. Please ask Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Michael; there is a list in the sacristy.

FAITH in FOCUS: BREAKFAST BY THE LAKE When someone says the word "eucharist" what springs to mind? Do you think of a thing, perhaps the bread and wine? Or do you think of an action, perhaps the Mass? Oddly enough, if you go to Greece you'll hear the word "eucharist", though pronounced in a slightly different way, every few minutes. That's because it's the Greek word for "thank you". So the eucharist is really the action of giving thanks to God for creation and redemption. It's an action first and foremost, and then a thing secondarily since we reserve the eucharistic species of bread and wine for use with the sick and sometimes for adoration. If you take a look at the appearances of Jesus after his resurrection, you're bound to notice that food plays a great part in them. From the first appearance on Easter Sunday evening with the disciples on their way to Emmaus where he breaks bread, to the final appearance in today's gospel where they have a fish breakfast on the lake shore, being with Jesus is associated with eating and drinking. Could the gospel writers be trying to give us a

clue? The eucharist is the action of the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit by which we praise and thank God for the wonders he has worked for us and those he is still doing today. By calling down the Holy Spirit upon the bread and wine we effect the transformation of the elements into the body and blood of Christ. We also call down the Spirit upon ourselves so that by sharing communion we too are transformed into the Body of Christ that is the Church. In other words, we become what we eat. We meet Christ in the words that are proclaimed from scripture, for they convey the message that his life embodied. We meet Christ in the faces of those whose paths cross ours daily, especially those in need. We meet Christ in those who minister God's love to us through the sacraments. We meet Christ in his body, the Church, when we gather together with two or three or more to worship in his name. But most of all, and in a special way, we meet the risen Christ in eucharist where he invites us to eat and drink in the consummate act of thanksgiving that seals us in God's love.

ATTENDANCE A total of **384** people attended Mass last weekend, and we received **£599.73** in the offertory. Football parking yielded **£158.00**, and we received a further **£50** resulting from the table sale. Again, our thanks to all of those who give up their time to steward the parking and run the table sales. We would also like to thank the ladies of the UCM who have donated **£100** towards the building fund.

50/50 Club was won by J Dolan with ticket number 8, winning **£54**.

April Subscriptions collected this weekend.