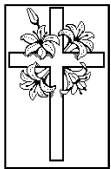


DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 30th January 2011

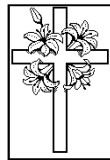
✘ FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✘

Sun 30	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Andrew Campbell RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Tom Gallagher RIP
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
		1.00pm	<i>Baptism: Caitlyn de Belen</i>
Mon 31	St John Bosco	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
Tues 1	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Kate Walsh RIP
Wed 2	The Presentation of Our Lord	10.00am	✘ School at Mass: George & Mary Jones RIP
Thu 3	Feria		NO MASS
Fri 4	Feria	7.30pm	✘ Mass: In Reparation for Abortion
Sat 5	St Agatha	10.00am	✘ Mass: Mary Culhane RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
✘ FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✘			
Sun 6	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Rev. Fr Arthur Porter RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✘ Mass: May & Les Pengelly RIP <i>Also Baptism: Natalia Misalkova</i>
		4.00pm	Rosary and Benediction

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



*Rev. Fr Arthur Porter,
Horace Haslam, Patrick Kennedy, Ivy Dias,
Teresa Varlese, Harold Trowell, Melina Brattle,
Marguerite Williams, Nicola Di Lisio, George Baker,
Angela Savage, Mary Henery, Archibald Tanton,
Michael Hackett, Mary Mills, Rose Ward,
Melvyn Andrews and James Murphy.*



*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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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 —

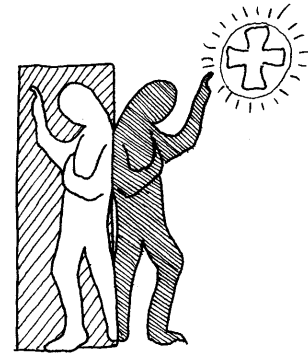
30th January 2011

✘ FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✘

WORD of GOD

Seek integrity; seek humility. You will perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.

(Zephaniah 2:3)



WORD for TODAY

Humble people are people of integrity, for they know their true worth and they do not boast of being what they are not. We all have much to boast about for we are fashioned in God's own image. To give God the credit is true humility.

THE BEATITUDES

The beatitudes which Jesus offers us are a sign of contradiction to the world's understanding of happiness and joy. How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God as the greatest treasure possible. Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and spiritual oppression. God reveals to the humble of heart the true

source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world. Thomas Aquinas said, "No one can live without joy". That is why a person deprived of spiritual joy goes after carnal pleasures. Do you know the happiness of hungering and thirsting for God alone?



"Blessed are those who have nothing to say
and cannot be persuaded to say it."

(Don Schwager)

AROUND the PARISH

A WARM WELCOME to Fr **TOM RYAN** who is with us from the Missionary Society of St Columban. He will be celebrating Mass, and giving an appeal this weekend while Fr Geoffrey is away.

Fr **GEOFFREY** is now on his break. 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.

PARISH WEBSITE We are experiencing some downtime due to the transfer of our domain name. We hope to be back online within a week.

THE IRISH NIGHT last week was a great success with plenty of singing, dancing and possibly a drink or two! Thank you to all those who organised & helped with the evening. A total of £520 was raised, which will go towards the Building Fund.

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.

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

INDIAN INDULGENCE LUNCH will take place on Sunday 27 February at 1pm. An alternative menu will be provided for those who do not like Indian food. £7.00 for adults and £1.50 for children under 10 years of age. Bring your own drinks. Prizes for the raffle would be appreciated. Money raised will go to the Building Fund.

FUTURE PARISH EVENTS include May Procession (1st May); May Dance (7th May); Barbeque (12th June). Note

these dates in your diaries & further information will be available nearer the time.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST COLUMBAN The Columbans are an international Society and presently work in Australia, China, Chile, Britain, Fiji, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Peru, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan and USA. Their work of evangelisation includes bringing the Good News of God's love to poor and marginalised people; building bridges between faiths and cultures; working for peace, justice and reconciliation; promoting a concern for our environment; raising an awareness of the missionary vocation of all the baptised and supporting emerging local churches. The Columbans enlist support through the publication of their mission magazine, 'The Far East' nine times a year. It presently enjoys a readership of some seventy five thousand throughout the United Kingdom and draws articles and features from our missionaries both at home and abroad. Their website is www.columbans.co.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: SELF-MADE PEOPLE? The 1980s were known as the "me" years. We were encouraged to take care of ourselves by sharing in an economy that was supposed to make us all richer and give us a greater share in the wealth of our nation. A booming financial market, wider ownership of shares due to privatisation, champagne in the city and a "loads o' money" culture ensued. For some. Yet we were all enticed by the philosophy of getting out there and grabbing what was ours. The pundits of the 80s would have found it

hard to make any sense of Jesus's words in today's gospel. They are counter-cultural: they fly in the face of the accepted standards of society. In fact, they say that to be a Christian is to put yourself not in the front line when it comes to receiving, but to stand in second place and allow those more needy than you to come forward. What lies behind the teaching from the Sermon on the Mount is the fact that none of us is a self-made man or woman. The world belongs to God not to the rich, and whatever skills and talents we might have are not the result of our own greatness but of God's generosity. Success is not measured by bank balances or public adulation, by civic honours and titles or by column inches in the national newspapers. Success is measured by our ability to espouse the values of God's kingdom, values which do not draw attention to ourselves but point us in the direction of God. People who are selfish, or self-absorbed, lack integrity. They lack integrity because humility is missing from their make-up. And humility does not mean that they pretend to be less than they are; it means that they acknowledge where their strengths come from. Jesus urges us to go beyond the world's definition of strength, success and happiness, for seen through the lens of eternity they are shallow. Instead, he invites us to rejoice in true poverty of spirit and boast of the values of the kingdom, which are our wisdom, our strength, our holiness and our freedom.

ATTENDANCE 504 people attended Mass last week; we received **£726.44** in the collection.

This weekend there will be a retiring collection this week for the Missionary Society of St Columban.