

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 31st January 2010

✕ FOURTH SUNDAY (C) ✕

Sun 31	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: May & Les Pengelly RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
Mon 1 February	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Kate Walsh RIP
Tue 2	The Presentation of Our Lord	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: George & Mary Jones RIP
Wed 3	St Blaise	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Culhane RIP
Thu 4	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Antoni Szczygielski RIP
Fri 5	St Agatha	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Rev Fr Arthur Porter RIP
Sat 6	Ss Paul Miki and Companions	10.00am	✕ Mass: Rose Ward RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>

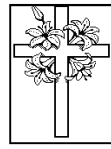
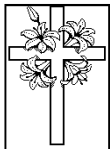
✕ FIFTH SUNDAY (C) ✕

Sun 7	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Intentions of the Lee Family
		9.30am	✕ Mass: In Reparation for Abortion
	Sunday	11.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		4.00pm	<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>

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

Rev Fr Arthur Porter, 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, Herman Mullins, Alistair Morton and Daphne Tapley.

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



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]

—Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468—

31st January 2010

✕ FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕

WORD of GOD

I tell you solemnly,
 no prophet is ever accepted
 in his own country.
 (Luke 4:24)

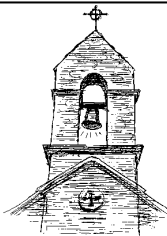
WORD for TODAY

We all have people we look up to and respect. We're prepared to listen and learn from them. But if God were to choose the most mundane, unexpected person to get through to us, who would it be? Who's the prophet in our midst that we're missing because we never give them a second thought?



SEARCH FOR THE LORD - *Bells and Smells...*

Many parishes today have lost the use of bells in their life and worship. But it wasn't always so. The Church has for long used our sense of hearing as a hook on which to hang aspects of our worship of God as well as to notify us of events great and small that are happening locally. Until the 1960's and 70's it was quite common to see football supporters on their way to a match carrying a wooden rattle. This was ratcheted and made a loud sound when whizzed around to urge on the team to victory. But the football stadium was not the first home of this rattle. That honour belongs to the monastery. The "football" rattle was used by the monks before the sixth century. It was known as a "semantron", a sounding-board which called the monks to prayer and marked the time of other activities such as study and recreation. This rattle was largely replaced by bells from the sixth century onwards, usually small riveted metal plates which with the passing of time became cast metal of copper, tin and bronze. It is the Irish monks who can be credited with the spread of church bells from about the eighth century.



COUGHS AND COLDS

This has always been the time of the year to watch out for coughs, colds and flu. For many years the Church has used a blessing on the feast of St Blaise (February 3rd) to invoke God's protection against these winter illnesses. This is probably because St Blaise, who was Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century, was famous for saving the life of a young boy who got a fishbone stuck in his throat. The priest uses two candles that are placed (unlit!) around the throat while he says a blessing.

AROUND the PARISH

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

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 a few 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

JOB VACANCY St John Fisher School has a vacancy for a temporary assistant ICT technician (maternity cover). The closing date for applications is Friday 5th February. See poster on schools board.

50th ANNIVERSARY Bishop Thomas Grant School, London, is holding a series of open days to mark its 50th anniversary. For the dates of the celebrations, please see the poster in the porch.

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 notice boards in the porch.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY The Christian Education Centre in Tooting 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.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND FAITHS FORUM The annual conference of the SEEFF is being held on Thursday 8th April from 9.30pm-4pm at the University of Surrey, Guildford. More information on the poster in the porch.

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: THE BILL BLOGGS SYNDROME About fifty years ago there was a priest in Britain who did a series of unheard of things that shocked and confused many people while convincing others that he was mad. Let's call him Fr Bill Bloggs. Fr Bloggs was a local lad and so was well known by his peers and those with whom he worked. His interest in the liturgy meant that he had studied developments in Europe which convinced him of the need for Catholics to be able to worship in their own language, and he had for a long time been a proponent of "vernacular liturgy" as it was called. His fellow clergy thought him a bit odd but harmless. When Fr Bloggs was appointed to a new parish he began to implement changes that could be used in the future. He built an altar that was able to

be used with the priest's back to the people but also with him facing them. He had a source of constantly running water that led to a baptistery with a pool that you could step inside. A little chapel at the side of the sanctuary had no altar but did have a plinth where the tabernacle could later be housed. Instead of a pulpit on high, he had a lectern fashioned from where the scriptures could be proclaimed. All of this only served to convince everyone that Fr Bloggs was at least a little eccentric, if not mildly deranged. A few years later the Church throughout the world was faced with liturgical changes that were a result of the Second Vatican Council. No one was really prepared for the extent of change that was being proposed and voted in by the bishops in Rome. Suddenly there was a need for prayers in English, for new creations, for training courses for clergy and others connected with the liturgy, for re-ordering of sanctuaries, for a complete updating in the way the liturgy and the sacraments were now to be celebrated. Where were we to turn in order to be updated and educated in a new vision of worship? When there was still time to do so, his fellow practitioners failed to seek Fr Bloggs' help because, like Jesus in today's gospel, he was just Joseph's son. He was nothing special. Who's the son or daughter of Joseph and Mary that we're ignoring today because, like Bill Bloggs, we know where they come from and they're nothing special?

ATTENDANCE. Last weekend we welcomed 434 people to Mass, and we received **£528.30** in the collection. The collection for Peace Sunday amounted to **£148.08**. We also acknowledge donations for the Haiti appeal. Thank you. **This week** there is a retiring collection for the Catholic Education Service.