

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 3rd April 2011

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

Sun 3	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>
Mon 4	Feria	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Marie Magdalene Keating RIP
Tues 5	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Santa Lucia Tizzano RIP
Wed 6	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Francis Kiernan RIP
Thu 7	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Deceased members of the Beare Family
Fri 8	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 9	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Joan Deere RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>

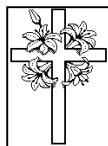
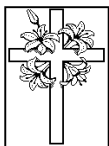
✠ FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

Sun 10	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Intention of the Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Deceased members of the Bishop Family
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism of Shanae Ann Tilley</i>

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:

Peter Negus, Mary Stevens, Marie Keating, Santa Tizzano, Edith Smith, Thomas French, Douglas Wharfe, Stephen Cunningham, Barbara Ryan, Maria Freeman, James Walsh, Antonia Edney, Mary Hewson, Ernestina Gizzi, Teresa (Tess) Lawson, Eva Fantetti and Ellen O'Neill.

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



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— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

4th April 2011

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

WORD of GOD

He put a paste on my eyes,
 I washed,
 and I can see.

(John 9:15)



WORD for TODAY

When faced with difficulties and problems, how do we try to solve them? Do we bring the light of our faith to bear on our decisions? Do we seek the enlightenment that our belief in Jesus can bring? Does prayer ever enter into the equation, or do we just muddle through?

LAETARE (4th April)

The fourth Sunday of Lent is known as "Laetare Sunday" because of the old Latin entrance song for Mass that invited people to "rejoice". Some churches change from the purple or violet colour to a rosy-pink colour for the vestments and fittings on this day.

Elsewhere this Sunday was known as "Refreshment Sunday" since the rejoicing led to a relaxation of the fasting rules and people baked cakes with fruit in them. In some places this cake was called "Simnel Cake".

An even older custom associated with today is "Mothering Sunday" (not to be confused with Mothers' Day which is a later American commercial event). It was customary for people to return to their "Mother Church" on

this day, the church where they had either been baptised in or grew up in. People who did this were said to be going "a-mothering". With the passing of time servants and domestics were allowed this day off to return and visit their families. So there's plenty going on today!

Rejoice

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 Sunday Benediction this month.

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.

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

The CHARITY EVENING in aid of CAFOD Unfortunately we have had to postpone this event until further notice.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE Tickets will be on sale after Masses from next weekend. All proceeds will go towards the annual trip to Joss Bay.

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

BLESSING of EASTER FOOD This traditional Polish custom will take place *in English* on Holy Saturday (23rd April) at 11.30am in the church.

ŚWIĘCONKA Ten tradycyjny polski zwyczaj odbędzie się *w języku angielskim* w Wielką Sobotę (23 kwietnia) o 11.30 w kościele.

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.

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.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

POST of EDUCATION OFFICER The Archdiocese of Southwark Commission for Schools and Colleges is seeking to recruit an Education officer. Further information and application packs are available from Donna Gray at the Commission on donna.gray@rcsouthwark.org.uk or by telephoning 01689 829331. Closing date for applications is Friday 15th April.

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.

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.

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. Details of the Pilgrimage together with this year's theme may also be found on the Diocesan Website.

FAITH IN FOCUS: THROW AWAY YOUR WHITE STICK The internet's a fascinating thing. Just connect to it, type in a word or phrase and suddenly you have access to hundreds of thousands of sites all vying for your attention and offering the solution to your questions. Of course, it's not quite as simple as that, is it? You want to find out about the queen who ruled in 19th century Britain and so you type in "Victoria". However, all you get is page after page of tourist guides to Canada, or Australian Chamber of Commerce web sites. Information is a wonderful thing but it needs a certain ability to see through it and sift the evidence be-

fore it becomes really useful. And too much information simply blinds us; we don't know which avenue to go down to find our answer. Today's long gospel passage from St John presents us with the man who has been blind since his birth. He has always had to rely on others to describe the physical world to him, always had to ask directions from strangers, always lived off second hand accounts of what people and places were like. Today he would carry a white stick. When Jesus gives him his sight back it transforms his world. Not only do his eyes work correctly but his vision of reality is transformed. So sure is he of the power of Jesus that he even begins to argue and taunt the religious leaders. These same leaders had previously blamed him and his parents for his blindness. As we move towards Easter and the renewal of our baptismal promises, the Church gives us this gospel passage to remind us that our faith in Christ has opened our eyes to see clearly what we must do to live the life God wants of us. We no longer are blindly searching for meaning and fulfilment. We need feel no fear when faced with so many shallow and pale imitations of what life is about, so many people who pretend to have the secret of happiness, so much junk information that offers us the world. When Jesus calls us out of darkness into light he offers us the gift of faith, the ability to discern, to see clearly, to journey without stumbling. Throw away your white stick, he says, and see how wonderful the world can be!

ATTENDANCE There were **418** people at Mass last week and we received **£533.66** in the collection; thank you. **50/50 Club** subscriptions will be collected after Mass this weekend. ♦ **Next week** there will be a retiring collection to help cover the cost of flowers for the church for the Easter Triduum and beyond into Easter itself.