

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 25th APRIL 2010**

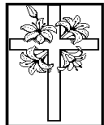
**✘ FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✘**

<b>Sun 25</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Chiarina Nasillo & Maria Fantetti
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Gelsi Antonietta
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism: Zack Harwood</i>
		1.30pm	<i>Baptism: Kiann Suba</i>
<b>Mon 26</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Mary Jane Saunders RIP
<b>Tue 27</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Margaret Murphy RIP
<b>Wed 28</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Angiolina Fantetti RIP
<b>Thu 29</b>	St Catherine of Siena	7.00am	✘ Mass: Eva Fantetti
<b>Fri 30</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
<b>Sat 1st May</b>	St Joseph the Workman	10.00am	✘ Mass: In Reparation for Abortion
		10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>

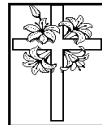
**✘ FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✘**

<b>Sun 2</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Verdolini Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Saturno Fantetti & Loreta Lepore
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism: John Brooke</i>
		4.00pm	<i>May Devotions and Benediction</i>

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Barry Caruana, whose funeral takes place at Woodlands Cemetery Chapel on Tuesday 27th April at 11am; also the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:



Thomas Rowley, John McCann, Derry Roach, Janet Breen, Desmond Stynes, Una Welch, Laurence Turner, Doreen McCormick, Joele Wilcox, Stefan Szemelak, Jane Liston, Lawrence Perris, Elizabeth Crosby and William Hurley.



*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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 Parish Priest Fr Geoffrey Pointer  
 Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]  
 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

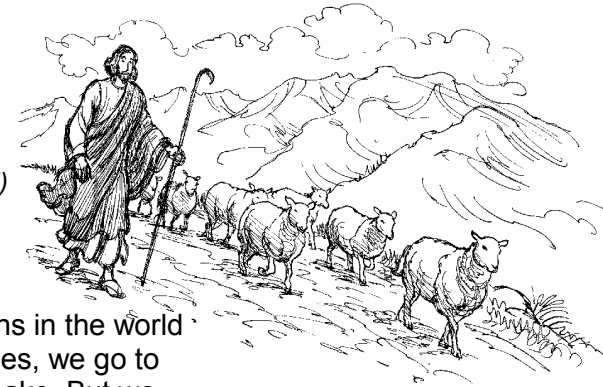
Registered Charity 235468

25th April 2010

**✘ FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✘**

**WORD OF GOD**

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.  
*(John 10:27)*

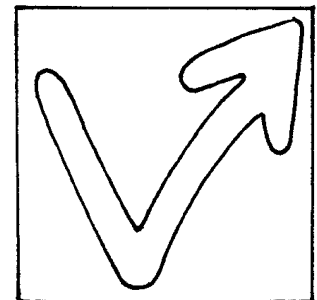


**WORD FOR TODAY**

Christians face the same situations in the world as everyone else. We have families, we go to work and we have decisions to make. But we also have the voice of a guiding shepherd. Where do we look to in order to hear that voice?

**VOCATIONS SUNDAY (Today)**

God of the harvest, you call us by name and invite us to follow you. Help us to grow in love and service of our Church and our world. Give us energy and courage to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's mission of justice and love. Bless our parish with the gifts of your Spirit. May we raise up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as priests, brothers, sisters, deacons and lay ministers. Inspire us all to know you better and open our hearts to hear your call. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **AROUND the PARISH**

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

**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.

**GIFT AID** Thank you to those who use the envelopes each week helping to augment our parish income thanks to the income tax we are able to recover. The new envelope season will start in June and boxes of new envelopes will be distributed after each Mass on 8th and 9th 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 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**

**TODAY** the fourth Sunday of Easter, is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because in the Gospel we hear Jesus speak of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. That is why it is the day chosen as World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. Pope Benedict has written to us this year on the theme "Witness Awakens Vocations". He cites the examples of the Prophets of the Old Testament dedicating their entire existence to

bearing witness to God. Jesus, he says, is the "supreme Witness to God and to his concern for the salvation of all." As we look forward to the visit of Pope Benedict to our shores please continue to pray for those who may be considering a vocation to priesthood or religious life. Please also pray for the success of this year's Vocation Discernment Weekend, Invocation 2010. ([www.invocation.org.uk](http://www.invocation.org.uk).)

**PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES' MEETING** Notes on the recent meeting of the Christian Constituency Committee with prospective MPs are available at the back of the church.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**FAITH in FOCUS: HIS MASTER'S VOICE** Two men were sitting on a bench chatting. One said, "I think my wife is crazy. She talks to herself all the time." The other man said, "Oh, my wife talks to herself all the time, too. Only she doesn't know it. She thinks I'm listening." Sometimes in our religious practice we seem to have all the symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). We become distracted easily, we find it hard to concentrate, we allow ourselves to go off at a tangent and, most of all, we think we are listening when really we're not. In his gospel John quotes Jesus as saying that he is the Good Shepherd whose sheep listen to his voice. And, clearly, if the sheep are to benefit from the shepherd's experience then they have to listen to where he is directing them. Most of us would accept that what God is trying to say to us can be found in the bible. Some might go further and say that when the bible is proclaimed in our liturgy then God is actually speaking to us here and now. We would probably accept too that the teaching of the Church is another way of knowing what God wants to communicate to us. But are there other ways of listening out for the shepherd's

voice? Christ, the Good Shepherd, speaks to us through other people. When we come across others we see the face of Jesus reflected in them, for they like us are made in God's image and likeness. Yet sometimes we see them only as physical beings rather than as mini-words of God, as glimpses into the divine. Do we hear the voice of God in other people? What about the events of our daily lives? If we are finding things hard financially, it may be because of the recession. But do we ever think that God's voice may be prompting us to ask about whether we're in the right job, using our talents to the full, managing our lives and money properly? Conversely, if we are doing really well, do we consider that we deserve a good pat on the back or do we instinctively bless God for our prosperity? And when we hear of natural disasters such as recent earthquakes do we jump on the bandwagon of "How can a loving God allow such a thing?" or do we learn anything about our own lives and those of others by looking deeper at the consequences of what has happened? How do we listen for the shepherd's voice?

**ATTENDANCE** Last weekend attendance at Mass was **329**, and we received **£724.86** in the offertory. We are grateful to the UCM for a donation of **£100** to the Building Fund, and the football parking yielded **£160**; our thanks to the stewards. ♦**This week** there is a retiring collection for the **Ecclesiastical Education Fund**. This collection helps to meet the costs involved in training students for both the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. It also supports certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy.