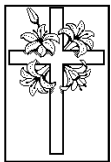


DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 6th February 2011

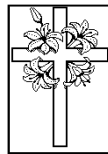
✕ FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕

Sun 6	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Rev. Fr Arthur Porter RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: May and Les Pengelly RIP <i>Also Baptism: Natalia Misalkova</i>
		4.00pm	Rosary and Benediction
Mon 7	Feria	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Henry and Mary McDermott
Tues 8	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Kerry Caulfield-Keating RIP
Wed 9	Feria	10.00am	✕ School at Mass: Kerry Caulfield-Keating RIP
Thu 10	St Scholastica	7.00am	✕ Mass: Rose Ward RIP
Fri 11	Our Lady of Lourdes	10.00am	✕ Mass: Nicolina (Di Paolo) Larini - 80th Birthday
Sat 12	Our Lady	10.00am	✕ Mass: Mr and Mrs Lennon RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕			
Sun 13	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Johanna Linney RIP
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism: Jack Singleton</i>

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



Herman Mullins, Alistair Morton, Dorothy Smith, Daphne Tapley, Ann Jamieson, Kevin Ketchen, Henry Leckie, Olive Carwardine, Bridget Harte, James Dent, David Golding, Jan Cygan, Margaret Hougham, Olive Sherry, Margaret (Peggy) Miller and Eileen Jarrett.



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 —

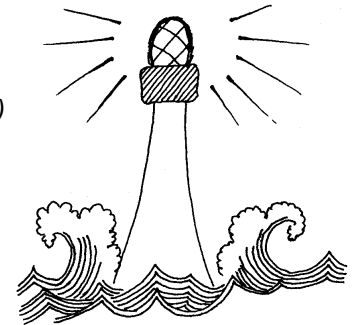
6th February 2011

✕ FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕

WORD of GOD

Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor; then will your light shine like the dawn.

(Isaiah 58:7.8)



WORD for TODAY

There's no point in having a light unless it lights up the darkness. The whole purpose is to shed light so that people can see what they're doing. So too with our Christianity: we cannot be unobtrusive Christians for we are called to light up the world.

Something to pray about...

We can join Pope Benedict in his prayer intentions for the month of February:

General:

That all may respect the family and recognise it for its unmatched contribution to the advancement of society.

Missionary:

That Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ in serving those who suffer from disease in those mission territories where the fight against disease is most urgent.



AROUND the PARISH

WELCOME BACK to Fr GEOFFREY who returns from his break in the Isle of Wight.

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.

PARISH DIARIES These have *finally* arrived and are available, free of charge, in the repository after Sunday Masses.

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

INDIAN INDULGENCE LUNCH will take place on Sunday 27th 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 and further information will be available nearer the time.

St MARY'S SCHOOL (FS1) It is good news that our primary school will be opening a nursery in September this year. Children are entitled to free 5 x 3hr sessions. The school

will be offering places to children the term after their third birthday. Sessions will run Monday to Friday: morning session, 8.30 - 11.30 or afternoon session 12.30 - 3.30 For further information and an application form please contact the school office on 855783.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

MARRIAGE PREPARATION courses are provided by Marriage Care. The courses are held at St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, Kent, ME8 9BR and cost £55.00 per couple. Courses will take place on Sunday 6th March; Sunday 8th May and Sunday 5th June. Couples will find the courses rewarding, educational and enjoyable in a supportive environment where they can focus on their relationship. Any couples interested in taking part need to complete an application form.

ATTENTION ALL ASPIRING DEPUTY HEADS & HEADTEACHERS Aspiring deputy headteachers and headteachers in community schools are warmly invited to a Saturday morning gathering to consider whether they might 'Put out into deep water' by moving into leadership in Catholic Schools. This will be held on Saturday 14th May at 10.00am-1.00pm followed by lunch (included). For further details please contact Vanessa Copper on 01689 883347 and for bookings contact Claire Cottington on 01689 829331 at the Archdiocese of Southwark, Commission for Schools and Col-

leges, St Edward's House, St Paul's Wood Hill, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2SR or visit the website: www.rcsouthwark.org.uk

POST OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION "The Archdiocese is seeking to appoint a practising Catholic with successful experience at a senior level in education to take up the post of Director of Education with effect from 1st September 2011. Further information and application packs are available from Donna Gray at the Commission on donna.gray@rcsouthwark.org.uk or by telephoning 01689 829331."

FAITH IN FOCUS: A PRIVATE DO There's nothing more ludicrous than to hear the newscaster say, "The couple plan a private ceremony". By definition you can't really have a private wedding because the very marriage ceremony implies a social contract that is publicly ratified and witnessed. In a similar vein private baptisms miss the point that the child is being incorporated into a believing community, and private funerals are just extremely sad affairs that take little account of the fact that the deceased was a member of the wider Body of Christ. Yet we can easily fall into the same trap ourselves. Often we come to church and think of it as a time for me and God, forgetting that we come to form part of a worshipping body, a community gathered together with a common purpose: to praise God in word and song. And in our prayer too, it's tempting to close in on our-

selves and God, to talk to God just about what bothers me, what I want, how I feel. But Christians are supposed to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. And salt and light are social, public images. When Jesus uses them he is emphasising the missionary, evangelising role that we all have. For we don't hide lights away; we put them where everyone can see and benefit from them. And when we put salt in food it flavours the whole dish, not just the part of the pan that we dropped it into. Being salt means not keeping things to ourselves. It's not about leaving a bitter taste in the mouth of those we meet, but adding a flavour to their day. And in the same way light is about being witnesses to the one true light which darkness can never blot out: Jesus Christ. To be the light of the world is to show the world that there is a way to live which can bring ultimate fulfilment. It's about pointing the way forward when all seems gloom and doom. Our religion, then, is not hole-in-the-wall, private affair. It's a call to be the universal flavouring which entices the hungry and the global light which prevents the world from stumbling.

ATTENDANCE 424 people attended Mass last week; we received **£587.48** in the collection. Last week's collection for the Columban Missionaries totalled £289.61. Fr Tom Ryan has written to express his thanks for our generosity. Thank you.