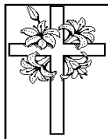


DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 7th FEBRUARY 2010

✠ FIFTH SUNDAY (C) ✠

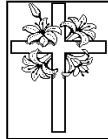
Sun 7	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Intentions of the Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: In Reparation for Abortion
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		4.00pm	<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>
Mon 8	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Henry and Mary McDermott
Tue 9	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
Wed 10	Saint Scholastica	8.00am	✠ Mass: Ben De Souza RIP
Thu 11	Our Lady of Lourdes	7.00am	✠ Mass: Angela Pereira RIP
Fri 12	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Mr and Mrs Lennon RIP
Sat 13	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Johanna Linney RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>
✠ SIXTH SUNDAY (C) ✠			
Sun 14	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo <i>Baptism: Hannah Salter</i>
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Nicola de Lisio RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP <i>Baptism: Blaise Welch</i>

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



Ann Jamieson, Henry Leckie, Olive Carwardine, Bridget Harte,
James Dent, David Golding, Jan Cygan, Margaret Hougham,
Olive Sherry, Margaret Miller, Eileen Jarrett and Sonia Cleall.

*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]

— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

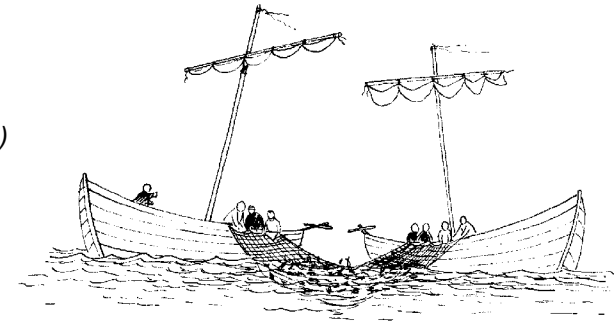
7th February 2010

✠ FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✠

WORD of GOD

Simon Peter fell at the knees of Jesus and said,
“Leave me, Lord;
I am a sinful man.”

(Luke 5:8)



WORD for TODAY

Jesus tells Simon Peter to row his fishing boat a little further into deeper water. Then it happens. They catch so many fish that their nets begin to tear. Staying in a comfortable religious place is tempting, but our faith only grows if we're prepared to explore other waters.

DAY of PRAYER for the SICK (February 11th)

God of healing, made flesh in Christ Jesus, poured out on us through the Holy Spirit, we come to you today to make our prayers for those who are ill:

Lord of tenderness, fill us with your presence that we may receive with your love all those who are ill...Life-giving God, fill us with faith, so that we may assure those who are suffering, that their pain will blossom into life...Strength-giving God, pour into the hearts of all carers the embracing, enduring love of Jesus...Source of compassion, fill us with vision and courage to pursue research that will bear fruit in healing...Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to you...Righteous God, empower us to fight for and extend present health care systems...

O God, hear our prayers, those we have spoken out loud and those still in our hearts. We trust in your loving response, through Christ the healer. Amen.

AROUND the PARISH

PARISH CENSUS Our thanks to those who took time to fill in the census forms last weekend. Numbers are currently being 'crunched'.

RUNNING REPAIRS The work to renew the flat roof above the repository and narthex will hopefully be completed this week. The cost was **£4,620**. We also had to pay **£600** for similar repairs in the McMahon Hall caused by the snow and frost. We are grateful for the **£200** received from the recent table sale which will help towards this cost.

VISION MEETING The follow-up Parish Vision Meeting will be at 7.30pm in the McMahon Hall this Monday, 8th February.

Fr PAUL Thank you, Fr Paul, for coming over to supply while Fr Geoffrey took a little break. Fr Paul will be leaving us on 16th February. By way of a farewell we will have a cheese and wine evening in the hall on Monday 15th February at 7 o'clock during which Fr Paul will share some slides of his projects in Maria Raini. All are welcome. Fr Paul writes: *With deep sentiments of gratitude and appreciation, I bid goodbye to Rev. Fr. Geoffrey, for his understanding heart of support, kindness and brotherly love. I also express thanks to all of you friends, for your kind hospitality, co-operation and generosity to me personally and to my Mission in general.*

KNIGHTS of St COLUMBA The Medway Council of the Knights of St Columba invite you to join them on their annual pre-Lent walk this Saturday, 13th February from St Thomas' Rainham to Aylesford Priory. The walk will begin with Mass at 10am and finish at the Friars at about 2.30pm where hot soup and coffee will be available at a small cost. Stations of the Cross will be

recited en route, which will be mainly on public footpaths, not main roads. Transport home will be available for those who need it.

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.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

MARRIAGE WEEK UK Bishop John Hine, chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Marriage and Family Life, will launch a survey during Marriage Week (8-14 February). All those involved in preparing couples for marriage are invited to take part in the survey. Go to www.catholicmarriage.org.uk to fill in the short survey and for more information.

PARTNERS in MINISTRY The Christian Education Centre Team in Tooting Bec are running a Partners in Ministry course in March and April this 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.

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.

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 Dea-

con Michael if you wish to attend.

FAITH IN FOCUS: DEEPER WATER We all like to feel comfortable and we all have our own little ways of doing things that we've got used to. That's because by nature we're creatures of habit. We don't like to be put out or troubled by having to learn new ways. We like a quiet life. Religious people sometimes use their faith in the same way. It becomes a comfort and a crutch, a way of doing things that makes them feel secure and unthreatened. Faith becomes the spiritual insurance policy that guarantees peace of mind. But at the heart of faith is risk. Faith involves making that leap, walking along the path with no signs, trusting when you know that everything could go wrong. Faith is an invitation not to remain where we are but to seek ever new and more enriching pastures, to stretch ourselves, to be challenged in ways that we cannot even suspect but which will carry their own rewards. Christian faith, in particular, is not an anaesthetic but an adventure. In today's gospel we see Jesus telling Simon Peter to put out the boats into deeper water. Normally you don't catch many fish by the edge of a lake; you have to be bold and move into the middle. And, sure enough, having fished all night long and caught nothing, it was when the disciples obeyed Jesus' request to put out into deeper water that they not only caught fish but netted a catch that astounded them. The deeper the water the more uncomfortable people feel, because you can't touch the bottom. But the deeper the water the greater the catch. Our sluggishness encourages us to remain static in faith. We're content to catch fish when Jesus promises us that we could be catching people, encouraging men and women to come to Christ. We're prepared to do the basic minimum in our faith, to enjoy the view close to the

shore, when Jesus promises us a magnificent experience on the high seas. Today's liturgy challenges us to be bolder in our relationship with God and with others, to grow in faith and trust, to move to areas in our lives that are as yet uncharted. Yes, we're bound to have doubts about our safety. But God does not promise us a calm passage...just a safe landing.

ATTENDANCE Last weekend we welcomed **341** people to Mass, and we received **£515.69** in the offertory. The collection for the Catholic Education Service came to **£99.57**. We also received **£81.50** from the last football match parking. Thank you. **Next week** there will be a retiring collection for the Cabrini Children's Society. ■ CAFOD have written thanking us for the collection we had for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal: "We have pledged £1million to our church partners to help survivors of the earthquake that killed an estimated 200,000 people. At present we do not have accurate figures, but fear that up to 3.5million people could be affected. Staff from our local partner, Caritas Haiti, many of who have travelled by foot or on motorbike, have distributed food, water and tents to some of the families who have been made homeless. They have also provided first aid to some survivors in clinics and hospitals. 'It's very hard', says Rose St-Preux, a travel agent who lost her home in the earthquake and received a food package from Caritas. 'This Caritas distribution is the first aid we've had'. Thank you for caring about our ongoing emergency work. Please continue to pray for all whose lives are touched by crises around the world. For more information on our emergency work go to cafod.org.uk/emergencies.' Steve Tassie, Head of Support Services [CAFOD].