

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 10th April 2011

✠ FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

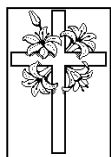
Sun 10	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Intention of the Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pat Bishop RIP
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism of Shanae Ann Tilley</i>
Mon 11	Feria	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Casilda Fernandes RIP
Tues 12	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Chiarina Nasillo and Maria Fantetti
Wed 13	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Deceased members of Larkin and Costello families
Thu 14	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass Nascimento de Souza RIP
Fri 15	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Philomena Breach RIP
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 16	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Saturnino Fantetti and Loreta Lepore
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

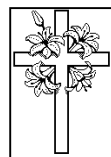
PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of OUR LORD

Sun 17	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Judy Luckhurst RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Tino Mosca

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:



Martin Mullins, Patrick Bishop, Alfonzo Gizzi, Daniel Scullion, Jane Liston, Carlton Aubert, Carmen Buttigies, Joan Staples, Antonio Cilloni, Agatha Wines, Vera Lechie, Martina Thomas, Ruth Caulfield, baby Lloyd Albert and Mary Crack.



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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 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

10th April 2011

✠ FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✠

WORD of GOD

I am now going to open your graves;
 I mean to raise you from your graves, my people,
 and lead you back to the soil of Israel.

(Ezekiel 37:13)



WORD for TODAY

From time to time we all run out of puff. We become just a little less enthusiastic about things than we used to be. God promises to give us his Spirit to revive us, to breathe fresh life into us when we seem to be sagging. All we have to do is ask.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

With the Lord there is mercy and fulness of redemption.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Psalm 129

Something to pray about...

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

General:

That the Church may offer new generations, through the believable proclamation of the Gospel, ever-new reasons of life and hope.

Missionary:

That missionaries, with the proclamation of the Gospel and their witness of life, may bring Christ to all those who do not yet know Him.



AROUND the PARISH

PASSIONTIDE As from this Sunday our crucifixes and statues are veiled to remind us that we are entering the remaining two weeks of Lent. Crucifixes remain veiled until the afternoon Liturgy on Good Friday; images of the saints are unveiled before the Easter Vigil. † Details of our Holy Week and Easter timetable are available at the back of the church. ♦ The Children's Liturgy next Sunday will be held in the McMahon Hall. Both groups will be together this week and children should go directly to the liturgy group rather than going into church first. ♦ In view of the Chrism Mass being on the Wednesday of Holy Week (20th April) our parish Mass that day will be at 7am. ♦ Parishioners are welcome to attend a service for the Polish custom of blessing Easter food. The service will be in English and held on Holy Saturday at 11.30am in the church. If you know any Polish families who may wish to come, please let them know. A similar service in Polish is held at St Francis' Church, Maidstone (01622 756217 for details). ✕ There is a deanery penance service at St Thomas', Rainham, on Tuesday 19th April at 8pm.

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

EASTER GARDEN This event was held last Wednesday and was very successful, with many children attending. Thank you to everyone who came along, joined in and made the afternoon a great success. Additionally a very big thank you to all those who helped organise and assist the children, and also to those who stayed behind to help tidy and clear up.

WELCOME this weekend to Mrs Leach,

lay chaplain, and Mr Capone, head of religious education at our local Catholic Comprehensive school, St John Fisher in Chatham. They will be speaking to us at the end of Mass.

LENT VIGIL The Medway Knights of St Columba will be leading our vigil service this Friday, 15th April, following Stations of the Cross.

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

PLAYGROUP SPRING FAYRE is this Monday in the McMahon Hall from 1pm.

LUNCHEON CLUB Following several very kind donations, including £355 from Councillor Cathy Sutton's Ward Improvement Fund, we have been able to purchase a new hot cupboard. A very big thank you to all those concerned.

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

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

DAY of REFLECTION A special day entitled, "The Sacredness of the Human Heart" is to be held at Aylesford Priory on Saturday 11th June (10am-4pm) for carers of those suffering from dementia. An opportunity to reflect quietly and pray with others who have a similar ministry. Booking is essential as places are limited. Cost £15 including a buffet lunch. Contact Rev Ray or Mrs Elizabeth Partridge on 01303 873835 or email e.partridge@hotmail.com

MARRIAGE MASS at ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday 18th June, 3pm. Chief celebrant Archbishop Peter Smith. Couples celebrating their 1, 10, 25, 40, 50+ wedding anniversary are invited to apply for a personal invitation from the Archbishop to the annual Mass in celebration of marriage. They will be

given preferential seating in the cathedral. There will be a reception after Mass. Application should be made through the parish priest by the end of April. This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.

YOUTH FESTIVAL at AYLESFORD PRIORY Sunday 26th June, 10am-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 - 30 year olds. A great weekend with a variety of prayer, bands, worship and international speakers. For Booking: www.brightlights.org.uk.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES See the poster giving details of this year's pilgrimage from 19th-26th August. Details, together with this year's theme, may also be found on the Diocesan Website. http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/lourdes_2011.html.

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE DEADENING EFFECT When the teacher asked her if she was looking forward to heaven, Molly replied that she wasn't sure. "The problem is, Miss, if it goes on for ever it might get boring." We can't quite get our minds around the idea of everlasting life. We automatically think about years, months, days, hours, minutes and seconds. Well, the life after death is certainly eternal and will go on for ever. But when Jesus offers us everlasting life he is as much concerned with the quality of life as with its duration. From a human point of view we can feel sorry for Laza-

rus who was called back from the grave to face more years of humdrum domestic life with Martha and Mary. No matter how happy we are with our family and friends, with what we do at work or in our leisure time, most of us still feel a deep down yearning for something else. We are content up to a point but there is always something out there calling us to a better quality of life. This richer form of life is life with God, and what we yearn for, if only we knew it, is union with God. The bible is littered with people who in various ways have become hidebound in their own little circles and whom God is able to release and unbind so that they can live life to the full. So when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead it is to point out that God can unbind us from the shrouds that we choose to wear daily. It's to show us that there is a more fulfilling and exciting life than sometimes we are led to believe. Lent reminds us that to be raised in Christ is to enjoy the really good things of life, to taste the very sweetness of existence. And it reminds us that money, sex, power and applause can have a deadening effect on life. There is more to life than all of these and Christians measure success in different terms. For them, eternal life has already started. If you want to live life now at a deeper level, an enduring or eternal life, then live the life that Christ offers. It sets you free from the shroud of competition, anxiety and outward appearance. And it's so devoid of deadening influences that it lasts for ever.

ATTENDANCE There were 330 people at Mass last week and we received **£681.17** in the collection; thank you. Additionally we recently received a £200 donation towards the Building Fund; thank you. **This 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.