

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd MAY 2010**

**✘ 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</i>
<b>Mon 3</b>	SS Philip and James	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Casilda Fernandes RIP
<b>Tue 4</b>	The English Martyrs	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Bernadette Beare RIP
<b>Wed 5</b>	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✘ Mass: Antonio Pereira RIP
<b>Thu 6</b>	Feria	7.00am	✘ Mass: Bridget Minogue RIP
<b>Fri 7</b>	Feria	6.00pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
		7.30pm	✘ Mass: Michael O'Keefe RIP
<b>Sat 8</b>	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Tony Vallejo RIP
		10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>

**✘ SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✘**

<b>Sun 9</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Mary Lane RIP
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Michael Patrick Keating RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Baptisms: Holly Marno and Keelie Thomas</i>

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

Margaret O'Sullivan, John Sullivan, John Bareham, John Edwards,  
Johanna Anderson, Isabella Cooper, Anne Riddell,  
Nora Hackett, William Tuffin and Anthony Vallejo.



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



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2nd May 2010

**✘ FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✘**

**WORD OF GOD**

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke:  
"Now I am making the whole of creation new."

*(Apocalypse 21:5)*



**WORD FOR TODAY**

We believe that the risen Jesus is present among us now. But this presence is simply a foretaste of the eternal presence that is promised to his people in the kingdom of heaven. Today we believe by signs; one day we will see God face to face.

**STATEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS of ENGLAND and WALES**

The bishops of England and Wales, at their biannual meeting at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, have issued a joint statement on child abuse, which was recently made available in parishes throughout each diocese. Their statement states that the 'criminal offences committed by some priests and religious are a profound scandal. They bring shame to the whole Church. But shame is not enough. The abuse of children is a grievous sin against God. Therefore we focus not on shame but on our sorrow for these sins.' The bishops continue: 'We express our heartfelt apology and deep sorrow to those who have suffered abuse, those who have felt ignored, disbelieved or betrayed. We ask their pardon, and the pardon of God for these terrible deeds done in our midst. There can be no excuse.' The failings of some bishops and religious leaders in handling these matters in the past, 'are aspects of this tragedy which we deeply regret and for which we apologise'. Procedures now in place should have been there in the past. The bishops call for 'a time for deep prayer and atonement' and invite all Catholics to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament on the four Fridays of May, praying for those who have suffered abuse and 'for healing, forgiveness and renewed dedication'.

*Copies of this important statements are available.*

## **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. ☩ Also, during the month of May, the Bishops of England and Wales have asked us to expose the Blessed Sacrament on the four Fridays ‘...to pray to God for healing, forgiveness and renewed dedication’ as a result of the child abuse scandal that has been such a focus of public attention recently. Please take a copy of the statement by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. There will therefore be exposition starting this Friday at 6pm followed by Mass at 7.30. On the remaining three Fridays of May exposition will probably begin at 6pm and close with Benediction at 7.30pm.

**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.

**GLOBAL DAY of PRAYER** See the poster giving details of this annual event in our area which begins on 13th May. If you are interested in helping out please call 07712 271598.

**CONFIRMATION** Bishop John will be here for Confirmation on Friday 12th November at 7.30pm. Application forms will be available this Sunday. Please see Deacon Michael or hand your name in after Saturday evening Mass.

**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.

## **AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND**

**ARCHBISHOP of SOUTHWARK** (*A message from Bishop John Hine, Diocesan Administrator, to the clergy*) ‘I am delighted to inform you that the Holy Father has appointed Archbishop Peter Smith of Cardiff to be our new Archbishop. Although very sad to be leaving the priests and people of his present Archdiocese, Archbishop Peter is also delighted to be coming ‘back home’ to his diocese of origin and very much looks forward to meeting you all. Many of you will know him well from his time as Rector of St John’s Seminary, and others, as a fellow priest of the diocese. I have assured him that the announcement of his appointment here will bring great joy to the whole diocese. Archbishop Peter’s installation as Archbishop of Southwark will be on Thursday 10th June. Further details will follow in due course. We continue to keep Archbishop Kevin in our prayers as he recovers well from his surgery but faces an operation on his other hip in a couple of months’ time.

**ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS’ RALLY** See the poster for this event this Monday, 3rd May, at Aylesford.

**MASS FOR NEW CATHOLICS** There will be a special Mass of thanksgiving

to welcome all new Catholics on Saturday 15th May at 11am in St George’s Cathedral, Southwark. Bishop Paul Hendricks will preside at this Mass and he very much looks forward to meeting all new Catholics received in the Church this Easter, along with their godparents, sponsors, relatives, clergy, catechists and friends. All are welcome to come and take part in this thanksgiving Mass.

**FAITH in FOCUS: SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW** Often the closer we are to something, the less clearly we see it. We might go on holiday to a beautiful island paradise only to find that the locals take the sunshine, the palm trees and the gentle pace for granted. It’s not uncommon for Parisian or Roman taxi drivers to consider the Arc de Triomphe or the Colosseum as mere traffic islands to be negotiated with difficulty at rush hour. We tend not to appreciate the wonders around us when we see them every day. The same can be true for Christians who live cheek by jowl with their faith. We can end up downsizing the importance of what we believe because we package it into sound-bites such as “God is love” or “Love your neighbour as yourself”. And if our faith and religion is reduced to maxims then it has to compete with all other political, commercial and recreational claims on our time and talent. And thus it becomes relativised. So Christianity is in danger of being seen as just one way of spending our spare time, along with party politics, sport, caravanning, bird-watching or knitting. And we get sucked into thinking that tolerance demands of us that we make no greater claim for our faith than we do about our hobbies and our interests. After all,

it would be indecent to make a lot of noise about our faith, wouldn’t it? Especially if faith is a private thing. But Christians don’t think like that. We don’t consider our belief in Jesus Christ to be a take-it-or-leave-it affair. It’s not merely like being a member of a wine club or a social networking group. For Christians, faith in Jesus is massive; it is the single most important factor in our lives because it determines who we are and how we behave. To be a Christian is not simply a “nice” thing; it’s totally consuming because it informs every aspect of our living and breathing. In today’s scripture God says, “Now I am making the whole of creation new”. The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. The old order is wiped away, death and evil have lost their power to keep us held captive, and we are offered a radically new and eternal life that has already begun now and that will come to fulfilment the other side of the grave. There is nothing “same-old” about our Christian faith. It’s something that can transform the whole of creation.

**ATTENDANCE** Last weekend attendance at Mass was **361**, and we received **£497.70** in the offertory. The collection for Ecclesiastical Education came to **£154.90**. Our Indian Indulgence lunch last Sunday boosted the Building Fund by **£615.25**. Thank you to everyone involved. The football parking for the last 2 matches of the season brought in **£199**; our thanks to the stewards for their loyal attendance in all weathers.

**PAPAL THANKS** Cardinal Bertone, Secretary of State at the Vatican, has written to acknowledge the donation of **£3,415.80** from the Diocese for the Peter’s Pence collection last year.