

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

13th February 2011

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠

WORD of GOD

For I tell you,
 if your virtue goes no further
 than that of the scribes and Pharisees,
 you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:20)

WORD for TODAY

Why do we believe and practise what we do? Do we obey God's law because we see it as an insurance policy for eternity or because it frees us to get the most out of life? Is it a deterrent or is it a charter for freedom?

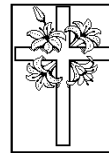


DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th February 2011			
✠ SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠			
Sun 13	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Johanna Linney RIP
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism: Jack Singleton</i>
Mon 14	SS Cyril and Methodius	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Nicola di Lisio RIP
Tues 15	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mr and Mrs Lennon RIP
Wed 16	Feria	8.00am	✠ Mass: Michael Keating
Thu 17	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Fri 18	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
Sat 19	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Armelle Beqari RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠			
Sun 20	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: John Hammond RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Intentions of the Lee Family
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		4.00pm	<i>Malayalam Mass</i>

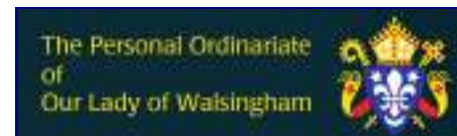
Please pray for the *following* whose anniversaries occur this week:



*Sonia Cleall, Ingeborg Sancto, Muriel Evans, Gillian Evans,
 Lillian Mayson, Lillian Lennon, Bernadett Adapen,
 Kathleen Cox, Michael Black, Linda Mannion, Joyce Terry,
 William Tomlin, Hannah Swadling and Martha Kitson.*



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



The first ordinariate for groups of Anglicans who wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church was established for England and Wales on Saturday, 15th January 2010. It will be known as the Personal Ordinariate of

Our Lady of Walsingham and placed under the patronage of Blessed John Henry Newman. A letter from Cardinal William Levada, Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, also gave news that the Holy Father had appointed Father Keith Newton as the first Ordinary of this Personal Ordinariate. Father Keith is one of three former Anglican bishops who were ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Vincent Nichols in Westminster Cathedral on 15th January.

The Ordinariate is the first fruit of the Apostolic Constitution 'Anglicanorum Coetibus' of Pope Benedict XVI (November 2009), that allows former Anglicans to enter full communion with the Catholic Church while preserving elements of their distinctive Anglican patrimony. Unlike dioceses, the Ordinariate is not defined by geographical boundaries. It is a special structure to encompass all those throughout England and Wales who have been received into the Catholic Church according to the provisions of the Apostolic Constitution.

We pray for the new Ordinariate and for its present and future members.

AROUND the PARISH

AFTERNOON TEA Every Friday afternoon at 3.10 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 is 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.

TABLE SALE after both Masses on Sunday 20th February. Please bring any unwanted Christmas gifts or items for sale to the Church or to the McMahon Hall prior to Mass on the Sunday.

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 (tickets for the raffle will be sold after all Masses from this coming Sunday till the day of the meal). Money raised will go to the Building Fund.

BISHOP JOHN is coming for Visitation the week ending 5th/6th March.

FUTURE PARISH EVENTS include May Procession (1st May); May Dance (date to be confirmed); 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.

CTS BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS are available at the back of the church. The publications cover various topics around the Catholic faith and beyond. There are also prayer & mass books available in various languages including Italian, Tagalog, Spanish, and Portuguese. Specifically at this time, there are books relating to Lent and Easter. Please take a look, money for purchases can be deposited in the postbox on the adjacent wall. Additionally, if there are any other publications that you would like us to purchase, please let us know.

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

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 and 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 Colleges, 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: SURFACE RELIGION In our society, if you don't break the law then no one can touch you. You can't be imprisoned, fined or given some other punishment. That's because you've done nothing wrong. So you won't get a criminal record. But neither will you get a public medal of honour. You have to do something worthwhile to be awarded an honour. Simply obeying the law doesn't make you a good citizen. Similarly with our religion, it's not enough to keep the rules. We have to have that something extra; we have to have a loving relationship with God, a relationship that shows itself in the way we live our lives. In today's gospel Jesus criticises the religious leaders for doing just enough to comply with the religious law while their hearts are in a different place. Minimalism is not the same as virtue. And so he points out that a "how far can I go?" mentality is unacceptable to God. I may not kill someone but if I harbour anger against them then I am guilty of sin. I may not commit adultery but if I lust after someone then I've already shown that I'm trying to bend the rules. And how can we approach God in worship when we are at odds with others at home or in the community? It's simply hypocrisy, says Jesus. How alive is my faith? Do I give my all or do I simply keep

the rules? Is coming to church on a Sunday the sum total of my contribution to the local Christian community? Do I rather resent the rules and regulations that my faith places upon me? Do I think that they put me at a disadvantage compared with friends who have no faith or do I see them as a God-given way of getting the most out of life? Do I see God's law as restrictive or as life-enhancing? Does it curb my liberty or is it a charter for human freedom? Christians believe that God's law brings life whereas acting contrary to it only results in a destructive existence. Today's scripture is even blunter; it tells us that we have a choice between life and death: choosing to ignore the wisdom of God means opting for a pattern of life that is ultimately unfulfilling and life-depriving. Today Ecclesiasticus (a preacher) reminds us that if we wish we can keep God's commandments for it is within our power to do so. You have life and death before you, he says, and whichever you like better will be given to you. Life and death on both sides of the grave. That's quite a choice!

ATTENDANCE 395 people attended Mass last week; we received **£705.45** in the collection. Thank you. There will be a retiring collection next week for the Catholic Education Service. ♦ We gratefully acknowledge various donations and receipts: **£320** from the Knights of St Columba, the proceeds from a quiz they organized towards the end of last year for the parish building fund; an anonymous donation of **£300**, also towards the building fund; **£520**, the proceeds from the recent highly successful Irish Night; the latest set of (7) APF boxes yielding **£151.61**, averaging out at £21.66 per box, many thanks on behalf of *Missio*; finally our SPUC collection last month came to **£114.14**.