

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 14th FEBRUARY 2010

✠ 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>	
Mon 15	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Mr and Mrs Lennon RIP
Tue 16	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Fred Yarmack
Wed 17	Ash Wednesday	10.00am	✠ Mass: Intention of Weller Family
		7.30pm	✠ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Thurs 18	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Michael O'Brien RIP
Fri 19	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Ben de Souza RIP
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 20	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Arthur Ryan RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>

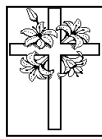
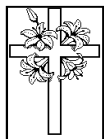
✠ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✠

Sun 21	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Dec'd members Beare Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Intention of Weller Family
		4.00pm	✠ Mass: <i>For the Malayalam Community</i>

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Melvyn Andrews, James Murphy and Ingeborg Sancto, recently dead; and for the following, with anniversaries this week:

Muriel Evans, Gillian Evans, Lillian Mayson, Lillian Lennon,
Bernadette Adapen, Kathleen Cox, Michael Black,
Linda Mannion, William Tomlin, Hanna Swadling,
Martha Kitson, Florence Bond and Tadeusz Wardanowski.

*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 Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
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Registered Charity 235468

14h February 2010

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

But alas for you who are rich:
you are having your consolation now.

(Luke 6:24)

WORD FOR TODAY

It's easy to forget that whatever we have today, houses, cars, possessions etc, are only temporary. They do not last; but we do, forever. And the way we use what we own in this world affects us for eternity.



SHROVE TUESDAY (This week)

"Shrove" comes from the old English word "shrive" which means to get forgiveness for your sins by confessing them and receiving absolution from a priest. It was the custom to go to confession before the start of Lent and prepare for the forthcoming celebrations of Easter. Along with the sacrament of penance there were fasts to be observed, sometimes from food and sometimes from certain pleasures. Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins, saw people emptying their larders of butter, eggs, flour, meat, fat, etc. This explains the phrase Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday in French), the eating of pancakes and the final festivities before the stark season began. So on Shrove Tuesday you presented yourself before a priest, confessed your sins and were shriven. And if it happened really quickly, you got short shrift. (Yes, it's true!) How can you best prepare for Easter this year? Shrove Tuesday gives us a clue...

ASHES (This Wednesday)

"In the Roman Rite, the beginning of the forty days of penance is marked with the austere symbol of ashes which are used in the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday. The use of ashes is a survival from an ancient rite according to which converted sinners submitted themselves to canonical penance. The act of putting on ashes symbolizes fragility and mortality, and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, the Church has retained the use of ashes to symbolize that attitude of internal penance to which all the



baptized are called during Lent. The faithful who come to receive ashes should be assisted in perceiving the implicit internal significance of this act, which disposes them towards conversion and renewed Easter commitment."

(Vatican Directory on Popular Piety)

AROUND the PARISH

LENTEN RESOLUTIONS Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence, when we restrict ourselves to one main meal and abstain from meat. Here are a few suggestions for our Lenten resolutions: Extra prayer. • Acts of kindness to others. • Forgiving someone who has wronged you. • Participating at church by volunteering. • Taking part more attentively at liturgy and Eucharist. • Giving our time in service. • Using the Sacrament of Reconciliation. • Acts of service and charity. • Giving money to people who are hungry or in need abroad. • Giving personal possessions to local people in need: clothes, books, shoes etc. ✕ In addition we can take part in Stations of the Cross in the church every Friday evening during Lent at 7.30.

VISION MEETING Thank you to those who attended the Vision meeting on Monday evening. There was some useful discussion on the way forward for the Parish and Fr Geoffrey and Deacon Michael will be considering some of the options raised.

CHEESE and WINE Don't forget our farewell evening for Fr Paul this Monday at 7.30 when he will show slides and pictures of the work which he has been doing in Maria Rani, India. All are welcome.

PARISH CENSUS If you have not yet filled in one of the census forms, please pick one up from the windowsill in the porch and after filling it in, hand it to any of the church helpers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Please keep our children in your prayers as they make their preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which they will celebrate in the church on Saturday 6th March.

QUIZ NIGHT The Knights of St Columba will be holding a Quiz Night on Saturday 27th February in the McMahon Hall at 7.30. Bring your own drink. Sausage and Mash provided. Tickets £5 each and all proceeds to go to the Building Fund.

READERS A provisional list of readers for Holy Week has now been drawn up. Would readers please check the pigeon holes in the sacristy to see if there is an envelope for them. If anyone is unable to read at the time requested, please arrange for a substitute and let the office know.

CTS BOOKLETS We have a new selection of titles available in the stand on the windowsill in the porch, particularly those appropriate to the season of Lent. There are also Lenten devotional booklets on the table with the newspapers.

HOUSEBOUND or LONELY? If you know of any parishioner who would welcome visitors for half an hour a so, please write down their details (including phone number) and hand in to the office for the Legion of Mary. (For those interested, the Legion of Mary meets weekly in the Presbytery at 10.30 on a Thursday morning.)

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

CALLED to PRIESTHOOD? If you are a young man who feel you are (or even if you're not sure) see the poster outlining various vocations days next month.

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.

FAITH IN FOCUS: KEEPING THE BALANCE It's a tightrope. It really is. We have to walk the rope without falling off one side or the other. And today Jesus tells us that we are happy, fortunate and blessed if we manage to get the balance right. The beatitudes are the most phenomenal promises ever made. If you are poor then you will own the kingdom of God; if at present you are experiencing hunger you will achieve complete satisfaction; if you weep now you will laugh forever. And so on. To believe in these promises means you are either deeply committed to the gospel message or you are mad. There can be no in-between. And that's where it starts to get difficult in daily life. What do we do? How do we live our daily life, earning and trying to prosper, when we also want to remain poor enough to have a share in the kingdom of God? How do we enjoy a really good meal when we are told that it is the hungry who will be satisfied? And how do we reconcile our belly laughs with the knowledge that those who mourn and weep are the ones who are praised by Jesus? You can see why many people who listened to Jesus preaching about the beatitudes were singularly unimpressed. It's counter-cultural: it goes against everything that our world and society stands for and it asks us to refocus and downsize the values that we are supposed to take for granted and aspire to. So they simply wrote him off. What the beatitudes remind us is that there is more to life than this world. This does not mean that we should not

try to eradicate poverty. Nor does it mean that we should ask starving people to embrace their hunger and oppressed nations to stop their mourning and weeping. And it doesn't mean that our laughter, feasting and prosperity are wrong. But what the beatitudes ask of us is that we view our lives under the microscope of eternity. All our actions here and now are to be weighed against what will become of us in perpetuity. If we come down too heavily on the laughing and feasting, we'll be neglecting our deeper reasons for being on this earth. And if we keep our eyes glued on the clouds of heaven, then we'll end up missing out on this wonderful life. It's a tightrope!

ATTENDANCE Last Sunday **390** people attended Mass here. We received **£642.19** in the offertory. Thank you. We have received acknowledgement of our recent Peace Sunday collection, which came to £148.08. **This week** there is a retiring collection for the Cabrini Children's Society. All donations will be placed in a restricted fund, enabling the society to continue funding such services as Neighbour-hood Centres, support for schools, residential care, parish work and support for those who were in care homes. Envelopes are available for those in the Gift Aid scheme. • Our recent crib donations on behalf of Cabrini Children's Society raised in excess of £100.00. They have been in touch to ask us to pass on their appreciation for our continued support of their work providing wide ranging services to children, young people, families and to adults with learning disabilities. To find out more about their work or to get involved, contact Ann on 020 8668 2181 or email her at ann.hoggan@cabrini.org.uk. You can also visit www.cabrini.org.uk.