

## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 6th March 2011

### ✕ NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕

<b>Sun 6</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Intention of the Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Kerry Caulfield-Keating RIP
		12.45pm	<i>Baptism of Freddy and Harry Brown</i>
<b>Mon 7</b>	SS Perpetua and Felicity	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
<b>Tues 8</b>	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Caraline Pyne
<b>Wed 9</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	10.00am	✕ Mass: Dennis Thompson
		7.30pm	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intentions
<b>Thu 10</b>	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Micallef RIP
<b>Fri 11</b>	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Jones RIP
		7.30pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Sat 12</b>	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Dec'd Members of the Bishop Family
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>
		1.00pm	<i>Baptism of Chijioke Joseph Ejiofor</i>

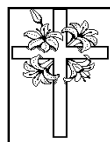
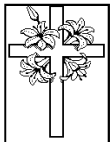
### ✕ FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A) ✕

<b>Sun 13</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Angela Partington RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Pat Knell RIP
		12noon	<i>Baptism of Stephanie Oluwagbemisola</i>
		4.00pm	✕ Mass for the Malayalam Community

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

*David Keogh, Thomas Hynes, John Rooney, Mary Hewson, Allan Ferla, William Grant, Olive Swinstead, Samuel Hunter and Freda Jarmack.*

*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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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468

6th March 2011

### ✕ NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕

#### WORD of GOD

Let these words of mine remain in your heart and in your soul; fasten them on your hand as a sign and on your forehead as a circlet. (*Deuteronomy 11:18*)

#### WORD for TODAY

We are faced with a simple choice today, with what the bible calls a blessing or a curse. We can either choose to let our faith in God permeate all the levels of our daily life, or we can decide to go it alone and take our chances. It's up to us.



**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*)

**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 during Lent at 7.30pm.

## **AROUND the PARISH**

**BISHOP'S VISITATION** This weekend we welcome Bishop John Hine who is here for Parish Visitation. Please give him a warm welcome as he celebrates Saturday evening Mass with us and celebrates and preaches at the Sunday Masses. Bishop John hopes that he may be able to meet as many of us as possible after evening Mass today (Saturday) and at the usual gatherings after the Sunday morning Masses.

**EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT** During Lent we shall again be exposing the Blessed Sacrament from after the Saturday morning Mass till about 11.15 when a simple blessing will be given with the Blessed Sacrament. In view of this there will be no monthly Benediction in March or April.

**FIRST RECONCILIATIONS** take place next Saturday, 12th March, at 2.00pm. Please keep the candidates in your prayers.

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY 2011** is on Friday 18th March. Please take an envelope from the back of the church for your contribution, and gift aid your donation if possible.

**FUTURE PARISH EVENTS** include May Procession (1st May); May Dance (7th May); Barbeque (12th June). Note these dates in your diaries and further information will be available nearer the time.

**READERS** List for Holy Week and Easter are now in your pigeon-holes. Please check these as soon as possible to ensure you are available as required. Please let the office know if there are any dates or times you cannot do. Many thanks.

**CTS BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS** are available at the back of the church. They cover various topics around the Catholic faith and beyond. There are also prayer and Mass books available in various lan-

guages. Specifically at this time, there are books relating to Lent and Easter. Please take a look, money for purchases can be deposited in the red wall box marked 'papers' on the adjacent wall. Additionally, if there are any other publications that you would like us to purchase, please let us know.

**SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS** These vouchers are very useful to our schools. Please collect and place them in the box at the back of the church.

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

## **AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND**

**A ONE DAY WORKSHOP on INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE** The Christian Education Centre is hosting a one day workshop on inter-religious dialogue, inspired by the recent Bishops' Conference document *'Meeting God in Friend and Stranger'*. The day will be facilitated by Fr Michael Barnes SJ who has extensive experience in this area. It will take place at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Road, London, SW17 8BS on **Saturday 9th April** between 10am and 3pm. Cost of the day is £10 per person. Please bring a packed lunch. For bookings and further details please contact Mary Boley at the CEC on 020 8672 7684/2422 or on office@cectootingbec.org.uk.

**EMMAUS MEDWAY** is part of the wider EMMAUS UK charity which offers homeless people a home, work and a chance to rebuild their lives in a supportive environment. Emmaus Medway is in the process of securing two properties; one to be used as a 'home' and the other as a shop in Medway. They are looking for volunteers to help in all sorts of practical ways, especially with the preparation of the shop unit and residential property ready for opening. They also need help from anyone with retail experience, who

could assist in the shop once open. Richard Carrington or Timi Aladewolu would be glad to hear from anyone that would like to help. Please contact by telephone on 01634 892577, or email emmausmedway@gmail.com or write to Broadside, Leviathan Way, Chatham, ME4 4LL. A letter from the Charity has been posted on the noticeboard at the back of the church giving further details.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: SOLID AS A ROCK** Build your house on rock, not on sand. When Jesus tells us this he is saying something that should be obvious but which we are prone to forget: the most important thing in life is to live well. Right living should provide the pillars on which our house is built. Jesus has just finished the Sermon on the Mount and now he invites his listeners to make their choice. They can carry on behaving according to what the world considers to be advantageous, or they can choose to live according to the Beatitudes. So, building our house on rock means three things. Firstly, it means recognising our true worth. Each of us has an inestimable value because we are created by God in his own image and likeness. We have a wonderful capacity for goodness; we don't have to join the dog eat dog culture. We have the powerful ability to love, since we were made by love itself; we don't have to put ourselves first all the time since it is by giving ourselves away to others that we find our deepest fulfilment. Secondly, we are not left to wander in the dark alone, in some sort of hit and miss approach to life. We have God's word to light up the way. Jesus promised that we would not be abandoned like orphans. In fact, he gave his word that he would be at our side until the end of the world. Our faith allows us to make judgements aimed at getting the best out of life. To be a Christian is not to cut ourselves off from enjoyment but to

live life as it was intended: to the full. And thirdly, we have much to look forward to. The life of the Beatitudes is one which has already begun. Eternal life started for us the moment Jesus shattered the grave and rose from the dead. Although we don't make light of our problems and troubles, we are confident that our well-being lies in God's hands and God will not fail us. So while we weep and mourn, struggle and scrape like everyone else, we do so in the confident hope that God will never let us suffer more than we can bear and has prepared great things for us if we remain constant to the end. Sand seems like a good idea to begin with. The foundations of the house go in so easily. But in our heart of hearts we know that only rock will do.

**ATTENDANCE** 422 persons attended Mass last week and we received **£546.88** in the collection; thank you. ♦ There is a retiring collection for the **Cabrini Children's Society** this week. Cabrini provides support and care for some of the most vulnerable children and young people in our community. This includes providing extended schools' clubs; nursery care; counselling for school age children and young people; residential care for adults with learning disabilities and catechetical programmes for children and young people with special needs. The Society relies on the generosity and goodwill of the Catholic community to continue its work in your diocese. Please give what you can to help give the next generation the chance they deserve. Donation envelopes are available, please ensure you complete your contact details, and gift aid your donation if possible. ♦ We gratefully acknowledge yet another personal donation to the Building Fund of **£200**. ♦ The 50 50 Club was won by Mrs Simmons with ticket number 103: £39. Collecting for this month next weekend.