

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 31st OCTOBER 2010

✘ ALL SAINTS ✘

Sun 31	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Nicola di Lisio RIP
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism of Rhys and Jacob Dorrington</i>
		4.00pm	<i>October Devotions</i>
Mon 1	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Tino Mosca RIP
Tue 2	✘ ALL SOULS ✘	10.00am	✘ Mass: Holy Souls
		7.30pm	✘ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Wed 3	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: Deceased members of the Hardy and Smith Families
Thu 4	St Charles Borromeo	7.00am	✘ Mass: Judy Luckhurst RIP
Fri 5	Feria	10.00am	✘ Mass: In Reparation for abortion
Sat 6	Our Lady	10.00am	✘ Mass: Melinda Morreale
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

✘ THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY (C) ✘

Sun 7	Saturday	6.30pm	✘ Mass: Deceased members of the Lee Family
	Sunday	9.30am	✘ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✘ Mass: Halina Barbara Welke and family
		3.00pm	<i>Blessing of Graves, Woodlands Cemetery</i>

Please pray for Philomena Breach and Edward Pointer, recently dead;
and for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:

Ellen Hanlon, Margaret Kleman, Eileen Bareham, Thomas Sinnott, Sean Pitt,
Coinbanas Kerwick, Anthony Peacock, Thomas Mc'Ateer,
Fr Michael Morahan, Pat Harris, Patrick Macken,
Gemma Cluer, Basil Farmer, Giuseppe Tammaro,
Mary Ennis, Enid Wybourne, Judy Luckhurst, Mary Draeger,
Mrs Parsons, Pasqualina Scalera, Nina Lepore,
Donald Hannigan-Baptist and Elizabeth Waller.

*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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Registered Charity 235468

31st October 2010

✘ ALL SAINTS ✘

WORD OF GOD

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward
will be great in heaven

(Matthew 5:12)

WORD FOR TODAY

At our baptism we were given a white robe to wear, to keep clean symbolically by the quality of our Christian lives. All Saints celebrates those who have gone before us in all times and generations, and who have maintained their faith in Christ. They now form part of the "white-robed army" who praise God in heaven.



✘ **NOVEMBER** ✘ is the month of the Holy Souls when we commemorate and pray for our beloved dead.

Envelopes are available for you to enclose a list of your deceased loved ones. These may be placed in the basket on the sanctuary. The envelopes remain in front of the altar throughout the month.

Any donations in the envelopes are used as stipends for Masses for the Holy Souls this month and throughout the year. Remember to Gift Aid your offering if possible.

AROUND the PARISH

CONFIRMATION Please remember our candidates in your prayers. They are to celebrate a service of reconciliation on Monday evening in the church. Next Sunday afternoon there is a rehearsal at 4.30 in the church. Bishop John will be here on Friday 12th November at 7.30pm for our Confirmation Mass.

CEMETERY VISIT We will be praying for our deceased loved ones at Woodlands Cemetery at 3pm next Sunday, 7th November. This will replace the usual monthly Benediction.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Preparations for next year's First Reconciliation and Eucharist begin in December. If your child is in Year 4 or above and has not made his or her First Holy Communion, please complete this form and return it to Fr Geoff by next weekend at the latest. This is particularly important if your child does not attend St Mary's Primary School. For children living outside the parish parents must ask their own Parish Priest for permission if they want their child to receive these sacraments in our parish. A meeting for parents is scheduled for 7pm on Monday 6th December in the McMahon Hall.

THE ROSARY The Rosary is recited every weekday in the church, half an hour before the Mass time. October Devotions conclude this (Sunday) afternoon.

ADVANCED NOTE There is to be an indoor Boot Fair in the Hall on Saturday, 11th December starting at 10.30am. Tables can be booked prior to the event for £5 and on the day for £6. If you wish to book a table ring the

church office on Monday, Thursday or Friday morning. However, if you do not wish to book a table but have good quality items for sale these can be donated to the church for the sale. Donations can be left at the church after any Mass. Money raised will go to the Building Fund.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY We have a variety of pamphlets (including a prayer book in Polish and English, which includes translations of the Mass), available on the windowsill in the porch. There you will find traditional aids to our faith such as prayer books and devotions, but in addition you will find challenging and topical subjects. All are reasonably priced so please have a look, and if you wish to purchase any the money can be put in the red box on the back wall marked "Newspapers". If you would like a pamphlet giving guidance on any particular issue, please leave a note in the office and it can be included, if available, in the next order sent to CTS.

QUESTIONNAIRE Pick up the result of the Social Events survey from a couple of weeks ago (yellow paper).

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

TOWARDS ADVENT The Towards Advent Festival takes place on Saturday 6th November at Westminster Cathedral Hall, with displays and presentations from Catholic groups and organisations from around Britain. Come and re-live the joy of the Pope's visit to Britain, with a special talk and overview by Mgr Vincent Brady and the Apostolic Nunciature. The Festival opens at 10am and continues all day. Mgr Brady's talk is at 3pm.

POPE PAUL VI MEMORIAL LECTURE 2010 is to be held at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham St, Westminster on Friday 12th November 2010 at 7.15pm. See notice board for further information.

St JOHN'S CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL Gravesend is celebrating 150 years of Catholic Education in Kent on Wednesday 24th November at 7pm in their new school. There will be a celebration Mass followed by refreshments. Everyone involved in Catholic education is invited to join them for this special event. See the notice in the porch.

CATHOLIC NETWORK is a newly established group in Kent for single people aged between 30-45 with the idea of making new friends, sharing the same faith. Please see the poster at the back of the church for further details.

RECYCLE YOUR MOBILE PHONE & INK CARTRIDGES and help CAFOD tackle global poverty. CAFOD will receive £3 for every phone donated, which could pay for a full course of childhood immunisation for an infant in Nigeria. Recycling envelopes are available from CAFOD Southwark in Dartford. Tel 01322 294924 or email: southwark@cafod.org.uk.

FAITH IN FOCUS The first reading focuses us for today's solemnity. In the Book of Revelation, St John reports a vision of "a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language". This is Good News. Salvation has come not only for Israel, but for the Gentiles as well. Here is the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham, that by his seed all the nations of the world would bless

themselves. The Church celebrates many famous Christians on their individual memorials, but today she praises God for all his "holy ones," his saints. That is the title St Paul preferred when he addressed his congregations. Divinized by baptism, they were already "saints," by the grace of God. They awaited, however, the day when they could "share in the inheritance of the saints in light". And so do we, as the Scriptures give us reasons for both celebration and hope. In our second reading, St John tells us that to be "saints" means to be "children of God"—and then he adds: "and that is what we are". Note that he speaks in the present tense. Yet John also says that we have unfinished business to tend to. We are already God's children, but "what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed." Thus we work out our salvation: "Everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ". We do this as we share the life of Christ, who defined earthly beatitude for us. We are "blessed," he says, when we are poor, when we mourn, when we are persecuted for his sake. It is then we should "Rejoice and be glad, for our reward will be great in heaven". Until then, we pray with the psalmist: "Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord". Salvation has come through Abraham's seed, but it belongs to all nations. For "the Lord's is the earth and its fulness; the world and all its peoples".

ATTENDANCE Mass attendance last week was 411; we received **£494.90** in the collection. The second collection for *Missio* came to **£144.74**. Football parking receipts came to **£140**. Thank you.