

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 21ST NOVEMBER 2010

✠ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST the KING (C) ✠

Sun 21	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Bernard McKenna RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Holy Souls <i>Also baptism: Orodena Esienna</i>
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism: William and Eva Collins</i>
		4.00pm	✠ Mass: Malayalam Community
Mon 22	St Cecilia	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary (daily, 30 mins before Mass)</i>
		10.00am	✠ Requiem Mass: Peggy Scullion
Tues 23	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Philomena Breach RIP
Wed 24	SS. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions	10.00am	✠ Mass: Roy Featherstone RIP
Thu 25	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Holy Souls
Fri 26	Feria	10.00am	✠ Requiem Mass: Margaret Cullen
Sat 27	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Edward Francis Pointer RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

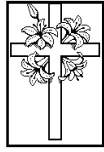
✠ FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (A) ✠

Sun 28	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Mass: Joseph and Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass Thomas Coats RIP

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:

Derek Gormon, Chester Starr, Marjorie Templeton, Edwin Staples, Basil Formere, John Aylward, Margaret Clark, Peggy Reynolds, Lorraine Steggles, Germaine Marozzi, Hermina Abeydeera, Carmen Desilva, Kathleen Waight, Thomas (Leo) Martin, Armelle Bequari, Hugh Crosby, Alice McGrath, Martha (Mady) Sayer and Raymond Ling.

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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21st November 2010

✠ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

'As for the leaders, they jeered at him. "He saved others," they said "Let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."' (Luke 23:35)

WORD FOR TODAY

Have I understood the good news preached by Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke? What will stay with me particularly from the Gospel of Luke? Let us pray for perseverance as we journey towards God's kingdom of love and peace. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.



BE WITH ME

A week of prayer for all those affected by prison.

The Gospel Reading for the Sunday in Prisons Week takes us to the Cross where we see entwined the horror of a broken world being overcome by the wonder of the love of God. In a place where isolation and division seemed dominant, we hear the words of Jesus to the penitent thief: "You will be with me in Paradise", words that brought hope to an isolated and broken person. The challenge of the theme of 'Be with me' is to pray and work for all affected by prisons, and for all who seek to bring this hope, that all may respond to the call of God and know the blessing of being with him.

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23.42-43

The Prisons Week prayer:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

AROUND the PARISH

BISHOP JOHN HINE has written to the parish thanking us for our hospitality and generous donation following the Confirmation Mass last week.

CHRISTMAS cards, Advent Calendars, art calendars, and Christmas candles are just a few of the items on sale from the repository. Please support the church and buy your Christmas items here. All items will be on sale in the McMahon Hall after both Sunday Masses this week, the last Sunday before Advent.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Preparations for next year's First Reconciliation and Eucharist begin in December. A meeting for parents is scheduled for 7pm on Monday 6th December in the McMahon Hall.

CONTACT the ELDERLY The Medway Deaf Group are looking for volunteers. Contact the Elderly are planning to open a third Medway group to take out to tea, once a month, elderly local deaf people with their driver/signers. Being elderly and alone is difficult but even more so for people who are also deaf. We need volunteer driver/signers, volunteer hosts and an Admin Assistant for a few hours a month. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Suzan Hyland on 020 7420 5811 or email: suzan.hyland@contact-the-elderly.org.uk. There is a postcard on the noticeboard explaining a little more.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY There are some new publications relating specifically to Advent, together with a variety of pamphlets (including a prayer book in Polish and English, with 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.

BOOT FAIR An indoor Boot Fair will be held in the Hall on Saturday, 11th December 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.

12th GILLINGHAM (OUR LADY'S OWN) BROWNIES meet in the Scott Hall on Mondays from 6.15-7.30pm. The group would love to see some new faces joining them. Anyone who is 7 years or older and interested in joining the group should contact Diane Jury (Brown Owl) on 07736 979195 or Karen Martin on 07958 741633.

WALK WITH ME 'A Journey of Prayers for Advent and Christmastide 2010' booklets are now available at the back of the church priced £1.00.

CIGARETTE ENDS Please ensure all discarded cigarette ends are placed in the box on the wall outside the church. Thank you.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

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.

The FRIARS' CHRISTMAS CRAFT 'FAYRE' is to take place on 27th and 28th November from 10.00am until 4.30pm. Please see the poster on the noticeboard.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS Christmas Catalogue is available at the back of the church. Capture the true spirit of Christmas and make a lasting difference to someone fighting poverty.

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES NEEDED The Cabrini Children's Society is seeking to recruit adoptive families for the large number of children who desperately need new parents. They need Catholic families for single children, groups of brothers and sisters, children with disabilities and children from black and other minority groups. All the children have experienced loss and trauma, but all can benefit from family life. If you feel you have something to offer please ring them - a telephone call doesn't commit you to anything but they would like to hear from you. Please contact them at the Cabrini Children's Society, 49 Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 2XB. Telephone 020 8668 2181 or Email adoption@cabrini.org.uk mentioning 'Parish Campaign'.

DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE have published their recent issue of the Messenger of Mercy magazine. Copies available at the back of the church.

The CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CENTRE invites parishioners to a cheese and wine reception on 8th December. Details on the noticeboard.

FAITH IN FOCUS Week by week the Liturgy has been preparing us for the revelation to be made on this, the last Sunday of the Church year. Jesus, we have been shown, is truly the Chosen One, the Messiah of God, the King of Jews. Ironically, in today's Gospel we hear these names on the lips of those who don't believe in him - Israel's rulers, the soldiers, a criminal dying alongside him. They can only see the scandal of a

bloodied figure nailed to a cross. They scorn him in words and gestures foretold in Israel's Scriptures. If he is truly King, God will rescue him, they taunt. But he did not come to save himself, but to save them - and us. The good thief shows us how we are to accept the salvation he offers us. He confesses his sins, acknowledges he deserves to die for them. And he calls on the name of Jesus, seeks his mercy and forgiveness. By his faith he is saved. Jesus "remembers" him - as God has always remembered his people, visiting them with his saving deeds, numbering them among his chosen heirs. By the blood of his cross, Jesus reveals his Kingship - not in saving his life, but in offering it as a ransom for ours. He transfers us to "the kingdom of the Son that he loves," as today's epistle tells us. His Kingdom is the Church, the new Jerusalem and House of David that we sing of in today's psalm. By their covenant with David in today's first reading, Israel's tribes are made one "flesh and blood" with their king. By the new covenant made in his blood, Christ becomes one flesh with the people of his Kingdom - the head of his body, the Church. We celebrate and renew this covenant in every Eucharist, giving thanks for our redemption, hoping for the day when we too will be with him in Paradise.

ATTENDANCE Mass attendance figures for last week are not available, however we received **£575.33** in the collection. ♦ The collection for the Archbishop's Diocesan Administration Fund came to £197.98. ♦ **This week** there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Youth Service, an agency of the Bishops' Conference promoting and coordinating youth work. ♦ Next week there will be a retiring collection for the **Cathedral**, the mother church of the Diocese. This collection helps to meet the cost of the upkeep of our Cathedral, St George's in Southwark.