

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 17th April 2011

✠ PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of OUR LORD (A) ✠

Sun 17	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Judy Luckhurst RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Tino Mosca RIP
		4.00pm	✠ Syro-Malabar Mass
Mon 18	Feria	9.30am	<i>Holy Rosary</i> (daily, 30mins before Mass)
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Jean Babbington RIP
Tues 19	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Giovanni Caporiccio
Wed 20	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Patrick Walsh RIP
Thu 21	MAUNDY ✠ THURSDAY	8.00pm	✠ Mass of the Lord's Supper: Nicola di Lisio RIP <i>Watching until 11pm</i>
		10.45pm	Compline
Fri 22	GOOD ✠ FRIDAY	10.00am	Children's Service. <i>Followed by Confessions</i>
		3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death <i>Followed by Confessions</i>
Sat 23	HOLY ✠ SATURDAY	10.00am	Confessions
		11.30am	<i>Święconka: Blessing of the Easter Food</i>

✠ EASTER SUNDAY ✠

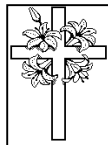
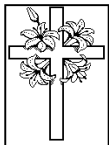
The RESURRECTION of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (A)

Sun 24	Saturday	8.30pm	✠ Easter Vigil Mass: Canon Thomas McMahon RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Dec'd Members McCullough family

Please pray for Mary O'Neill, who died recently
and for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:

Maria Finlay, Elizabeth Clark, Kathleen Timson, Rose Mullan,
David Savage, Tino Mosca, Bill Kinnear, Anthony Buntin,
Ciaran Duffy, Jeremy (Jez) Rafferty,
Canon Thomas McMahon and Michael Oweczko.

*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 —

17th April 2011

✠ PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of OUR LORD (A) ✠

WORD of GOD

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint:
I know I shall not be shamed.

(Isaiah 50:7)

WORD for TODAY

None of us gets through life without suffering. In some way or other we undergo things that we would rather avoid. Today we join Jesus at the start of his week of public agony, strengthened by the fact that no suffering can ever be stronger than God's love for us.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!



Psalm 21

THE GREAT WEEK *Holy Week*, the seven days before Easter, comes as the climax of the 40 days of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday. Those who took the ashes on their foreheads agreed to spend six weeks trying to deepen their relationship with God by prayer, fasting and good works. When the ashes are washed off the commitment remains. Christians are called to a daily conversion. We never fully finish our work of overcoming sin within us. Lent recalls us to our task of becoming the baptized people that we really are, and it comes to an end when we baptize new members into our community at Easter.

The **Thursday, Friday** and **Saturday** which come immediately before Easter are called the **Triduum**, from the Latin word for "three days". It is not really three separate feasts, but more of a "three day" feast, - an extended preparation for the great event of Easter. That's why, wherever possible, Christians try to be present on each day, taking up where they left off the day before. It is like the three acts of a single play. In our celebration of these three days which changed the world we use symbols which both remind us of what happened at the first Easter and help us to understand how they affect our lives today. With these symbols we remember, re-enact and recommit ourselves.

AROUND the PARISH

PASSIONTIDE Our crucifixes and statues are veiled to remind us that we are in the remaining two weeks of Lent. Crucifixes remain veiled until the afternoon Liturgy on Good Friday; images of the saints are unveiled before the Easter Vigil. † Details of our Holy Week and Easter timetable are available at the back of the church. ♦ There is a deanery penance service at St Thomas', Rainham, on Tuesday 19th April at 8pm. ♦ In view of the Chrism Mass being on the Wednesday of Holy Week (20th April) our parish Mass that day will be at 7am to enable the parish clergy to attend. ♦ Parishioners are welcome to attend a service for the Polish custom of blessing Easter food. The service will be in English and held on Holy Saturday at 11.30am in the church. If you know any Polish families who may wish to come, please let them know. A similar service in Polish is held at St Francis' Church, Maidstone (01622 756217 for details). ✨ **ŚWIĘCONKA** Ten tradycyjny polski zwyczaj odbędzie się w języku angielskim w Wielką Sobotę (23 kwietnia) o 11.30 w kościele.

READERS' PRACTICE There will be a practice for those reading at the Easter Vigil on Good Friday at 7.00pm in the church.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE Tickets will be on sale after Masses this weekend. All proceeds will go towards the annual trip to Joss Bay.

MAY PROCESSION Sunday 1st, 4pm.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION for the Holy Places is used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. It also helps the work of the Church in the Holy Land and

neighbouring countries by the relief of poverty and suffering. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres there rely very much on assistance from the Collection, especially at this difficult time. **Gift Aid Donors** are asked to place their contribution in one of the spare white envelopes supplied (writing 'Holy Places' on front) thereby boosting their donation by an additional 25% tax relief.

St JOHN FISHER SCHOOL Our Catholic Comprehensive School in Chatham requires an examination invigilator (interviewing soon). See the notice in the porch.

DAY of REFLECTION A special day entitled, "The Sacredness of the Human Heart" is to be held at Aylesford Priory on Saturday 11th June (10am-4pm) for carers of those suffering from dementia. An opportunity to reflect quietly and pray with others who have a similar ministry. Booking is essential as places are limited. Cost £15 including a buffet lunch. Contact Rev Ray or Mrs Elizabeth Partridge on 01303 873835 or email e.partridge@hotmail.com.

MARRIAGE MASS at ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday 18th June, 3pm. Chief celebrant Archbishop Peter Smith. Couples celebrating their 1, 10, 25, 40, 50+ wedding anniversary are invited to apply for a personal invitation from the Archbishop to the annual Mass in celebration of marriage. They will be given preferential seating in the cathedral. There will be a reception after Mass. Application should be made through the parish priest by the end of April. This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.

YOUTH FESTIVAL at AYLESFORD PRIORY Sunday 26th June, 10am-

8pm. Young people currently in school years 8-11 are invited to a day of varied activities, music and celebration of Mass. For further information, contact Southwark Catholic Youth Service on 01227 272900.

BRIGHTLIGHTS FESTIVAL at AYLESFORD PRIORY 1st - 4th July. Join the Southwark Catholic Youth Service for the 3 day/night Catholic young adults festival for 16 - 30 year olds. A great weekend with a variety of prayer, bands, worship and international speakers. Consult www.brightlights.org.uk.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES See the poster giving details of this year's pilgrimage from 19th-26th August. Details, together with this year's theme, may also be found on the Diocesan Website. http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/lourdes_2011.html.

FAITH IN FOCUS: MOMENTS OF PASSION Strangely enough, the events of that first Holy Week, when Jesus was led through suffering to a brutal execution on the cross, are a cause for rejoicing. For we glory in Christ's death and resurrection since they have set us free and saved us from ultimate oblivion and meaninglessness. What God accepted willingly, he accepted for me. But the passion and death of Jesus are not magic. We don't simply look back at history, recall the awful events and then say all's well with the world. The Calvary event is not some sort of magic moment with golden dust that has floated down to today. It's an invitation to join in with the daily passion we see on our streets. It's all about now and how we react to our own and other people's distress. As our TV screens show horrific images of people who are famished, war-torn or denied human rights, what do we do? Do we

join the crowd with their "hosannas" or do we offer to lift the burden of the cross? When given the chance to sell out on our principles do we take the hard road or go for the 30 pieces of silver? Are we good at proffering a kiss in public but a knife in the back? Who's being crucified on our streets this week and how are we responding? The passion is not magic. It does not offer instant salvation. It has to be shared to have its effect. We can sing all the hymns in Christendom, carry all the palms we can get our hands on, even ride in procession on a donkey. But it's pure idolatry if we don't pledge to unite ourselves to the passion of Christ in a real way. We need to make up in our own bodies what is lacking in the suffering of Christ. Christ's suffering was not imperfect, but it calls out to us to be imitated, to find completion in our own embrace. The way we accept suffering and the way we react to the suffering of others is the key to the passion. We can embrace the cross as something which can enrich us, or we can run in fear from pain. We can rush to the aid of our neighbour, or show a crucifying indifference to the suffering of others. Our choice will either diminish or ennoble us.

ATTENDANCE There were **412** people at Mass last week and we received **£1,007.16** in the collection; thank you. The collection for flowers came to **£168.36**. ♦ The Easter Collection is your personal offering to your priest, not the usual Sunday collection (which covers parish expenses and does not go to the priest). Along with your Christmas Offering this collection is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. Please be as generous as your circumstances allow. Envelopes are available for your convenience.