

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 1st NOVEMBER 2009

✕ ALL SAINTS ✕

Sun 1	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Judy Luckhurst RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Nicola Di Lisio RIP
		11.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 2	All Souls	10.00am	✕ Mass: Tino Mosca RIP
		7.00pm	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Tue 3	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Giuseppe Amorose RIP
Wed 4	St Charles Borromeo	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ School at Mass: Christopher Carroll RIP
Thu 5	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Pasqualina Scalera RIP
Fri 6	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✕ Mass: In Reparation for Abortion
Sat 7	Dedication of St George's Cathedral	10.00am	✕ Mass: Beatrice Vella RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>

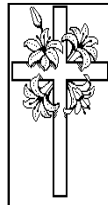
✕ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY (Remembrance Sunday) ✕

Sun 8	Saturday	6.30pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Thomas Goldsmith RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✕ Mass: For the dead of War
		3.00pm	<i>Blessing of Graves, Woodlands Cemetery</i>

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Marion Gittins, Nuala Caswell and Margaret Blair, recently dead, and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:

Eileen Bareham, Thomas Sinnott, Sean Pitt, Coinbanas Kerwick, Norman Knowles, Anthony Peacock, Thomas McAteer, Fr Michael Morahan, Pat Harris, Patrick Macken, Gemma Cluer, Giuseppe Tamaro, Mary Ennis, Enid Wybourne, Judy Luckhurst and Mary Draeger.

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

1st November 2009

✕ ALL SAINTS ✕

WORD of GOD

Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?
(Apocalypse 7:13)



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: the Month of the Holy Souls. Envelopes are available for you to enclose a list of your deceased loved ones. 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 throughout the year. Remember to Gift Aid your offering if possible. ✕ Available this week is our Book of Remembrance, 'REST IN PEACE', with the names of some of those who have died since our parish was set up and whose names are recorded in our parish registers. ✕ If there are any omissions, or if dates are incorrect, please let us

know. We hope to be able to publish this Book of Remembrance on the website soon. Our thanks to the editors.

AROUND the PARISH

CEMETERY VISIT We will be praying for our deceased loved ones at Woodlands Cemetery at 3pm next Sunday, Remembrance Sunday. This will replace this month's Benediction.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Application forms from those parents who wish their children to make the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion next year should be in by this weekend. A meeting for parents is scheduled for 7pm on Monday 9th November in the McMahan Hall.

MOVING ON Our best wishes to Andrew and Catherine Dunn who move away to Lincolnshire this week. Our thanks to them for the tremendous support they have given to the parish over the years in so many ways. We wish them a safe journey and offer prayers for them in their new home and parish.

PARISH VISION There will be a Parish Vision meeting on Monday 23rd November at 7.30pm in the McMahan Hall.

INDIAN INDULGENCE There is a list at the back of the church for the parish lunch on 29th November.

PARISH HISTORY In an effort to help document and digitalize our parish history, photographs and documents are being made available on the parish website. To view them, log on to www.ourladyofgillingham.org and click on Photo Gallery. Any additions are welcome. If you have any documents, photographs, etc. relating to the parish or clergy, please see John Allison or Fr Geoffrey.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Please remember to check our repository for a very good selection of Christmas cards and other seasonal items.

HOUSING PROBLEMS? If you are a home owner or private tenant please note that the Council is holding a two day Housing Advice Drop In at the Sunlight Centre in Richmond Road on 24th and

25th November. If you would like advice on assistance for repairs, or advice and assistance if you are in private rented, then do drop in. There will also be someone to advise on energy efficiency in the home. If you cannot attend, then ring the Private Sector Housing Team on 333066.

GILLINGHAM FOOTBALL When our team are at home our church car park is used by both home and away team supporters. This provides us with valuable income (usually around £170 per match). If you can offer your services twice a month on a Saturday lunch time to collect money and marshal the cars please do let us know. So far this season the takings have amounted to just short of **£1,800**. Our thanks to those who already help.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

GRIEF IN LOSS, HOPE IN CHRIST Places are still available on a retreat (next weekend, 6th - 8th November) for those experiencing emotional difficulties as a result of the loss of a loved one. Enquiries should be made to Aylesford Priory, 01622 717272.

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES NEEDED (A message from Cabrini.) The Cabrini Children's Society is seeking to recruit adoptive families for the large number of children who desperately need new parents. We 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 us – a 'phone call doesn't commit you to anything but we would like to hear from you. Please contact us 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'.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS There are prayer cards for priests on the windowsills in the porch. Please take one, and also a list of the priests in the Diocese from the table.

A FRESH LOOK at Baptism and Confirmation on Saturday 14th November and at Reconciliation and Holy Communion on Saturday 28th November. An opportunity to explore the theory and practice of these Sacraments. Both days will be held at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Road, SW17, 10.30am to 2.30pm. See the notice in the porch.

TOWARDS ADVENT The annual Towards Advent Festival of Catholic Culture takes place on Saturday 14th November at Westminster Cathedral Hall. Displays by a wide range of Catholic groups and organisations, talks, music, a chance to browse and buy Catholic books, DVDs and devotional items. Refreshments available all day; play corner for children. Official opening 10.30am with Archbishop Vincent Nichols and the Chamber Choir of the London Oratory School. Admission free. Everyone welcome.

FAITH IN FOCUS: BLESSED EXISTENCE? It's not how we live that makes us saints. It's how Christ lived for us, how he died and rose again for us. So today's feast is not about our trying to become saints. It's about focussing on what Christ has done and the fact that we are already called saints by him due to our baptism. We are incorporated into the holy people that are his Church. We've already taken our place in the line of God's saints. You'd think, wouldn't you, that being a saint would be a blissful experience? Yet we seem to have all the same problems that non-believers have. We mourn, we suffer and we find it hard to make ends meet just like everyone else. Perhaps we shouldn't be so surprised at this. After all it's exactly what Jesus told us in the Beatitudes: saints are those who mourn, who hunger and thirst for justice, who are

abused and persecuted. Do you recognise your life in this? You should certainly recognise there what happened to Christ in his earthly life. In a world that looks for instant gratification, whether it's fifty-nine minute dry cleaning or drive-through fast food restaurants, the feast of All Saints teaches us a lesson in perseverance. Through the Spirit, God is fashioning us slowly into the saints we are intended to be, as long as we let him. This means that we bear whatever crosses come our way, secure in the belief that we are promised the life that God has prepared for us from the beginning of time. But letting God mould us into saints takes a lifetime of maturing, a lot of patience and much starting over again. As we make this journey to our heavenly home we have the inspiration of those who have already completed their journey and now enjoy God's glory in God's holy city, what we call the heavenly Jerusalem. We hope that one day we will meet up with them there to share their joy and see God face to face. In the meantime we celebrate today's feast, thanking God for what Christ has done for us and asking that we may become more and more responsive to the Spirit who prompts us to grow in holiness.

ATTENDANCE Last weekend **399** people attended Mass here, and we received **£485.81** in the offertory collection. Thank you. ♦ The parking for the football gave a further **£174** - our thanks to the stewards. ♦ The latest amount collected from Smurfit for waste paper came to **£38.40** - again a very welcome contribution to parish funds. ♦ Next week there will be a retiring collection for our **Diocesan Clergy Support Fund** which helps finance clergy in-service training and gives assistance to our sick and retired priests. ♦ 50/50 Club winner was John Allison with ticket number 61, winning £53.50 for October's draw. November's subscriptions are being collected after Masses this weekend.