

# OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



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— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

16th August 2009

## ✠ The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ✠



### WORD of GOD

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 and my spirit exults in God my saviour,  
 because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
*(Luke 1:46-47)*

### WORD for TODAY

Where Mary has gone, we hope to follow. The  
 glory of today's feast is that Mary is one of our  
 race. Like us she strove to be attentive to the word  
 of God and to put it into practice in her daily life.  
 The place she occupies in heaven is one that is  
 also on offer to us.

### MELLIFLUOUS DOCTOR (20th August)

Mellifluous Doctor sounds as if it should be a GP with  
 a beautiful singing voice, but in fact it's the title that  
 was given by Pope Pius VII in 1830 to St Bernard  
 whose feast occurs this week. Born near Dijon in 1090,  
 he presented himself along with thirty of his relatives to  
 St Stephen at the Abbey of Citeaux when he was only  
 twenty-two years old and they became Cistercian  
 monks there. Only three years later he founded the  
 Abbey of Clairvaux and became its abbot. He was fa-  
 mous for his teaching, particularly about the Virgin  
 Mary, and is credited with composing the Memorare prayer and the hymn  
 "Jesus, the very thought of Thee". His reputation spread and he became an  
 adviser to popes and bishops as well as peacemaker in various political contro-  
 versies. He died in his monastery of Clairvaux on 20th August 1153.



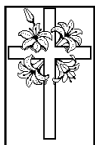
## ✠ The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ✠

Sun 16	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: In Thanksgiving
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP <i>Baptism of Jeremy Wangoto</i>
		12noon	<i>Baptism of Michael Dunka</i>
		4.00pm	✠ Mass for the Malayalam Community
Mon 17	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Chiorina Nasillo & Maria Fantetti RIP
Tue 18	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Jackie Malone RIP
Wed 19	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: William Azavedo RIP
Thu 20	St Bernard	7.00am	✠ Mass: Paul De Souza RIP
Fri 21	Pope St Pius X	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Angiolina Fantetti RIP
Sat 22	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen	10.00am	✠ Mass: Josephine & Albert Walters RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
<b>✠ TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY ✠</b>			
Sun 23	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Mgr Lenihan

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

Rose Fisher, John O'Neil, Joseph Ryan, Phyllis Gabriel,  
 Peter Jordan, Edward Kirwan, Blanch French, Ethel Wimsey,  
 Anne Lodge, Winifred Hogg, Jo Fewkes, Edith Gully,  
 John Smith, Edwin Proctor, Keegan Garlinge,  
 Alan Culverhouse, Pasquale Fantetti,  
 Maria Gilbert and Juliano Bonhoft.

*May their souls and the souls of all the ✠ faithful departed  
 through the mercy of God rest in peace.*



## AROUND the PARISH

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Fr Paul, who celebrates his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination on 20th August. We look forward to welcoming him again next month, and eagerly await news of the celebrations.

**QUIZ NIGHT** next Saturday, 22nd August at 7.30pm in the McMahon Hall. This is to be held by the Knights of St Columba - sausage and chips provided but bring your own drink. Entrance fee £5 and all proceeds to go towards our Building Fund.

**A GHANA DIARY** In light of Fr Joseph's recent (albeit brief) visit to us, Fr Geoffrey was persuaded to share his thoughts from his first visit to Ghana in 2001. They will be published on the parish website in weekly chunks from this week. It is a good read, and details the curious goings-on from his trip. You can find the diary every week on Fr Geoffrey's 'PPLog'.

**LOOKING AHEAD** Please keep Sunday 29th November free in your diary: the Indian Indulgence Team is organizing one of its delicious lunches - proceeds to go to the Building Fund.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**A DAY WITH MARY** Saturday 22nd August at St Augustine's Abbey in Ramsgate. Commencing 10am with tea and coffee in the hall and finishing with Vespers at 5.30pm. For further details there is a notice in the porch.

**The DOWRY of MARY PILGRIMAGE** to Walsingham will be on Sunday 6th September, led by his Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor. Commencing 11.30 with a welcome and reception of the Flags, followed by Mass and finishing with a procession to the Priory grounds for Benediction at 3.15. See the poster in the porch.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER** A meeting will be held to sample local views about Churches Together in Kent, at The Vines Church, Victoria Street, Gillingham on Monday 28th September at 8pm. Bishop John has encouraged attendance from the Catholic community. The meeting will last less than an hour.

**Mgr RICHARD MOTH** Vicar General to the Diocese, has been appointed by Pope Benedict to be Bishop to the Forces, in succession to Bishop Tom Burns, who is now Bishop of Menevia. Archbishop Kevin invites us all to join him in congratulating Mgr Richard on this appointment. The Archbishop expresses his personal thanks and appreciation for Mgr Moth's generosity and hard work. His ordination will take place on 29th September at 11.30am at Westminster Cathedral. We are asked to keep him in our prayers as he prepares for his Episcopal Ordination.

**'IN TOUCH'** is a scheme for the elderly and those with physical disabilities. Security equipment, minor repairs and adaptations to the home can be made. To find out more call 01474 535298 or email [medwayhia@intouchsupport.co.uk](mailto:medwayhia@intouchsupport.co.uk).

**HOPE FOR A NEW BEGINNING** a beginning experience weekend for the widowed, separated and divorced at Aylesford Priory 25-27 September. Beginning experience is a ministry led by a trained team of volunteers. Their work is carried out at special weekend gatherings which encourage participants to share their need and deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. Contacts: Ruth, 0208 8679 7157, Sandra, 01293 783965 or Susan, 01227 264961. For further details please see the poster in the porch.

**St THERESE of LISIEUX** The relics of St Thérèse will be visiting Aylesford Pri-

ory from 9th to 11th October. The relics will be placed in the Relic Chapel and people are invited to process past the casket. They may reverently touch the casket if they wish, and bring to God through the intercession of St Thérèse whatever intentions they have. Although the accent is on enabling people to spend time in silent prayer, drawing closer to God through this unique opportunity, there will also be liturgies and times of guided prayer. For full details of events please take a brochure from the Porch.

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TRAINING** Parish bereavement ministry is a befriending service to those who have experienced loss. If you are interested there is a training weekend on 30th October to 1st November at Aylesford Priory. Fr Geoffrey has the details.

**OBERAMMERGAU 2010** Camino Journeys to Holy Places are already taking bookings for next year. There is a small notice on the board with full details.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: CREDIT WHERE CREDIT'S DUE?** When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, Elizabeth realised that Mary was pregnant too. She congratulated Mary saying that she was blessed for believing in God's promise to her. But instead of basking in the glory of being pregnant Mary immediately breaks out into a long song of praise for a God who is always on the side of the little person, of the poor and the forgotten. Mary's Magnificat takes the spotlight off her and puts God fairly and squarely in the limelight. The liturgy of the feast of the Assumption does exactly the same thing. You could easily expect it to focus entirely on Mary but it uses Mary's death as a springboard to lift our thoughts to heaven. "Death" is not a word that we can even use on today's feast. Was Mary assumed into heaven before she had a chance to die?

Or did she actually die and was then taken up? Not only does nobody know the answer to that question but the Church bypasses it by focussing on the consequences of God's action rather than on the mechanics of his grace. The wonderful thing about the Mary being welcomed into heaven is that if it happened to her it can happen to any of us, and it will. God's promises find their "yes" in Christ. And Christ's promises to us are prefigured today in what happened to Mary. Mary is a model for us. She is a pattern of faith, holiness and obedience. A young girl who trusted in the scriptures, she kept her mind and heart open to whatever God was asking of her in her daily life and responded with a heartfelt "yes" even when she was unsure of all the consequences. She is also an incentive to us to bear Christ in our world. An ordinary member of the human race, she was given the highest honour, that of making Christ known in the world. And that too is our calling. When the course of her earthly life came to its end she was taken up to heaven. We, like Mary, hope that one day we shall find a place in the presence of God. Until then we can either bask in the glory that awaits us or praise the God who will make it possible. Today's feast suggests that we do the latter.

**ATTENDANCE** We welcomed 359 people to our Parish Church last weekend and received **£543.29** in the collection. Donations to the Building Fund amounted to **£110**, for which many thanks. Our first football match parking receipts (8th August) came to £172.50, and we also made £132 on 11th August, our thanks to the stewards.

**THE LAST WORD...** "Going to church makes you no more a Christian than standing in a garage makes you a car."

(Garrison Keillor)