

OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM



2A Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL
 Phone (01634) 852979
 Email: office@ourladyofgillingham.org
 Website: www.ourladyofgillingham.org
 Parish Priest Fr Geoffrey Pointer
 Parish Deacon Rev Michael Knight [574404]
 Hospital Chaplain Fr James Clark [830000]

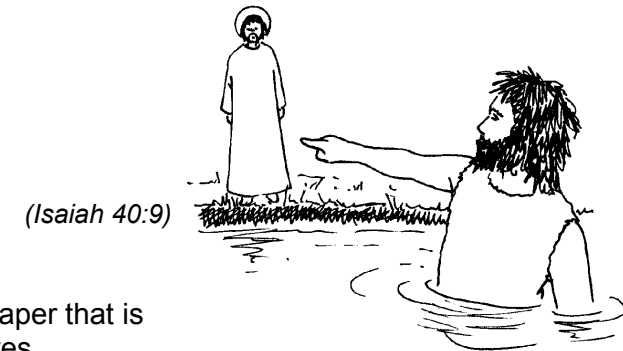
— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

10th January 2010

✠ The BAPTISM of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

WORD of GOD

Shout with a loud voice,
 joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
 Shout without fear,
 say to the towns of Judah,
 "Here is your God."



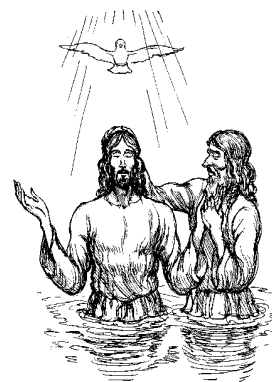
(Isaiah 40:9)

WORD for TODAY

Our baptism is the blue touch-paper that is lit at the start of our Christian lives. It is something dynamic that we carry within ourselves each new day: our mission to live the life that Christ has offered us and our duty to make him known wherever we may live and work.

LITURGY NOTES

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord signals the end of the Season of Christmas. On Monday we begin Week One of the **Ordinary Time before Lent**. In Ordinary Time no special mystery of the life of Christ is celebrated. Rather, the mystery of Christ is recalled in its fulness, especially on Sundays. "The Church celebrates the paschal mystery on the first day of the week, the Lord's day . . . A day of joy and freedom from work" (CE229). Ordinary Time begins tomorrow and continues until Shrove Tuesday, 16th February; it is resumed on the day after Pentecost, 24th May, and ends on 27th November, before first Vespers of the First Sunday in Advent. ✠ Weekdays readings are from



Cycle Two and Morning Prayer is from Psalter Week One.

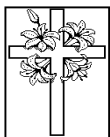
DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 10th January 2010

✠ The BAPTISM of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|--|
| Sun 10 | Saturday | 6.30pm | ✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | 9.30am | ✠ Mass: Holy Souls |
| | | 11.00am | ✠ Mass: Celebrant's Intention |
| Mon 11 | Feria | 11.00am | ✠ Requiem Mass: Jim Fitzgerald |
| Tue 12 | Feria | 9.45am | <i>Morning Prayer</i> |
| | | 10.00am | ✠ Mass: Harold Cardwell RIP |
| Wed 13 | Feria | 9.45am | <i>Morning Prayer</i> |
| | | 10.00am | ✠ Mass: Mary Beare RIP |
| Thu 14 | Feria | 7.00am | ✠ Mass: In Thanksgiving |
| Fri 15 | Feria | 9.45am | <i>Morning Prayer</i> |
| | | 10.00am | ✠ Mass: Margaret Clarke RIP |
| Sat 16 | Our Lady | 10.00am | ✠ Mass: Giovannangiolo di Paolo RIP |
| | | 10.30am | <i>Confessions and Exposition</i> |
| ✠ SECOND SUNDAY (C) ✠ | | | |
| Sun 17 | Saturday | 6.30pm | ✠ Vigil Mass: Halina Barbra and Viniare Welk |
| | Sunday | 9.30am | ✠ Mass: For Humphrey's Intention |
| | | 11.00am | ✠ Mass: Pro Populo |
| | | 4.00pm | ✠ Mass for the Malayalam Community |

Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Fitzgerald, recently dead; and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:

Fr Thomas Scott, Patrick O'Hare, Robert Ryan, Percy Ryan, Isabella Ryle,
 Patrick Storey, William Cannon, Harold Cardwell,
 Emma Gooding, Edwin Swan, Pasquale Galantini,
 Margaret Hannon, Ena Dean, Agnes Ryder
 and Baby Patrick Bray.



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

AROUND the PARISH

CRIB All offerings collected at the crib during the Christmas season will be forwarded to the Cabrini (formerly Catholic) Children's Society. Parishioners are reassured that these collections will only be used for activities other than adoption, for example, residential care and support for children with special needs. The Society helps children and families in need regardless of their faith or background.

NEXT SATURDAY We will be holding a tea party in our hall for the ladies from the Ammadiya Mosque in Medway Road and the ladies from some other local churches. All of our ladies are welcome (we hope to run from 2 – 4pm) but we would ask that anyone attending please bring some small item of refreshments: cake, crisps, sandwiches etc. On this occasion we would ask that we have no meat of any variety (no sausage rolls, ham sandwiches etc.) as the Muslim religion has very strict food laws and we would not want to embarrass our guests. If in any doubt, please ring Maureen on 303498 and she will be able to let you know what is, or is not, acceptable.

TABLE SALE There will be a table sale after both Sunday morning Masses next weekend. If you have unwanted Christmas gifts, please bring them along to the church as someone else may be glad of them. They can be given to the clergy or put in the sacristy.

READERS Thank you to those who have volunteered to read at Sunday Masses. We have revised the readers' lists and would be grateful if the new readers would pick up their list from the sacristy.

YEAR of PRIESTHOOD For the re-

mainder of this year for priests (which concludes on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, 11th June 2010) we shall be exposing the Blessed Sacrament on most Saturdays after the morning Mass for the duration of Confessions. There are prayer lists for priests on the windowsills in the porch. Please take one, and also a list of the priests in the Diocese.

PARISH CENSUS We hope to be conducting a census over the coming weeks, once the weather has settled down.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

RITE OF ELECTION For all those wishing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church there will be a service at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 20th February. There will be a preview evening on 9th February at The Hermitage, West Malling. Details on the notice board in the porch. Please contact Deacon Michael if you wish to attend.

HOLY DAYS of OBLIGATION In 2006 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, with the approval of the Holy See on 13th July 2006, decreed that with effect from the first Sunday of Advent 2006, three of the present Holy Days of Obligation which are Solemnities of the Lord will be transferred to the following Sundays. This means that the Epiphany, the Ascension of the Lord and Corpus Christi are now celebrated on Sunday. The existing practice is retained with regard to the other Holy Days of Obligation: Christmas Day, the Apostles Peter and Paul, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints will continue as before. With the exception of Christmas Day, the discipline in England and Wales is that when these days fall on a Saturday or

Monday they are transferred to the Sunday. Following this principle, this year only two of the Holy Days fall on weekdays: SS Peter and Paul and Christmas Day, which this year is on a Saturday.

MARRIAGE 2010 There will be marriage preparation courses on Sunday March 7th, Sunday 9th May and Sunday 6th June, all provided by Marriage Care. The cost of the course is £55, and details and an application form are available from Fr Geoffrey.

FAITH IN FOCUS: EMPOWERED The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his formal mission on earth. It's the moment when he takes his first steps in response to his Father's commission and begins to preach about the kingdom that God wants to establish here on earth and for all eternity. In future times of hesitation and difficulty Jesus would look back at his baptism and see it as the moment he was anointed to bring comfort to the afflicted and challenge to the affluent. It was the touchstone of his ministry. It's easy for us to make the mistake of looking at our own baptism as simply a past event. We can imagine that it's something over and done with, something that was done to us as a child. This is because we tend to view baptism as being officially enrolled in the Church, as having our name written among those who are Christians. Baptism does indeed enrol; but more than that: it empowers. Because we are baptised we have certain rights as Christians; we can take part fully in all that the Church celebrates, we can be baptised, married, buried etc. Along with these rights go certain responsibilities. We agree to live as members of God's people, to support each other and all those who are in need, to deepen our relationship with

God and to become mouthpieces for the Good News of Jesus Christ. As one of the sacraments, baptism needs to be lived out each day or else it will wither. It's a dynamic thing. The grace of baptism empowers us to become witnesses. We claim that Christ's message offers us the chance of living life to the full, of getting the most out of life, and our baptism fires us up to spread the news to others rather than keeping it to ourselves. It makes us official spokesmen and women. So if you're tempted to think that spreading the Good News is something for the professionals, for catechists and missionaries, then think again. You've been empowered by the grace of your baptism to be an effective witness to the force of God in your life. Make sure you do your baptism proud!

ATTENDANCE Last weekend there were 339 people at Mass and we received **£502.40** in the offertory. Thank you. We also received **£50** for the building fund in memory of Arthur Ryan; many thanks to the donor. The winner of last month's **50/50 Club** was Mary Bishop with ticket number 81, wining £44. This month's collection has been postponed. This year's **White Flower Appeal**, which was to have taken place this week, has also been postponed owing to the inclement weather. **Next Sunday** is Peace Sunday. The theme this year is "If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation". As the Catholic Movement for peace in England and Wales, *Pax Christi* relies on our support to continue its work of peacemaking. Donation envelopes are available on the windowsills at the back of the Church for you to make your voluntary offerings. Please hand them in next Sunday. Thank you.