

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 14th JUNE 2009**

**✠ CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI ✠**

Sun 14	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: William and Esther Dean
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Millicent Driscoll RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Olivier Jakub Zajac</i>
Mon 15	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Irene Alvares RIP
Tue 16	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Albert Owen RIP
Wed 17	Feria	7.30pm	✠ Mass: Mary Regan
Thu 18	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Wellbeing of Greta Hyde
Fri 19	<b>The Sacred Heart of Jesus</b>	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Casilda Fernandes
Sat 20	The Immaculate Heart of Mary	10.00am	✠ Mass: Robert Plummer RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
<b>✠ TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✠</b>			
Sun 21	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Dec'd of Larkin and Costello Families
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Tino Mosca RIP
		5.00pm	<i>Malayalam Mass</i>

Congratulations to the children making their First Holy Communion this week.

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

Millicent Driscoll, William Wilson, Rose Corr, John Jordan, Alma Cade, Dorothy Hindle, Seamus Timmons, Lilian Van Haefen, Karl Langan, Edward Shevlane, Carmela Klimek, Charles Corr, Carmen Dow and Christopher Domican.



*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

14th June 2009

**✠ CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI ✠**

**WORD of GOD**

The cup of salvation I will raise;  
 I will call on the Lord's name.

*(Psalm 115:13)*



**WORD for TODAY**

Contrary to popular thought, going to Communion is not a sign that we are good. It's a sign that we need to be better. Eating and drinking the body and blood of Christ is the spiritual medicine that helps us stay close to our God.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS**



This weekend some of our young people are making their First Holy Communion. We've got used to seeing them joining us for our worship each Sunday and sometimes going off for their own special liturgy that is tailored to their own age and needs. Now they will be joining us at the table of the Lord to eat his body and drink his blood.

Each of us has a responsibility towards these children. Let's remember them in our prayers so that through our example and that of those who have been involved in their preparation they may come to know the joy of receiving Jesus in the eucharist. Let us pray that their First Communion may be the first of many and that they may grow in faith until that day when they play their full part in the Body of Christ that is the Church.

## AROUND the PARISH

**YEAR of the PRIESTHOOD** The Archbishop writes about the Year of the Priesthood, which Pope Benedict has proclaimed and which begins on 19th June (solemnity of the Sacred Heart): "Without the Priesthood, there can be no eucharist, and so this is an opportunity to thank God for our priests, who lead us in worship and who give their lives for their people. We should also see this as an invitation to do all we can to encourage vocations to the priesthood. I invite all who are eligible really to give it serious thought and consideration. There can be no better life than one that is centred on the celebration of Mass, and consists entirely of service of God, and of our fellow men and women."

**DANIEL WRITES** "My sincere thanks to everyone in the parish who has helped make my stay such an enjoyable one. My thanks especially to Fr Geoffrey for his welcome and for making me feel at home, and to Fr James Clark for his patience in allowing me to shadow him in his chaplaincy roles these three weeks. I have been touched by the devotion and prayerfulness that is so evident in the parish, and will return to the seminary feeling much blessed by my time here. Thank you!"

**DAY of CELEBRATION** for the Year of St Paul at Aylesford on Saturday 27th June. Archbishop Kevin will be leading this Diocesan Day of Celebration beginning with Mass at 12noon and closing with a Celebration of the Word of God at 3.30pm. As it is on our doorstep, it is particularly convenient for parishioners to join in the celebrations. If anyone requires transport, please leave your details with Fr Geof-

frey.

**SCHOOL SUMMER FETE** St Mary's are holding their very popular summer fete on Saturday 27th June from 1 to 4.30. This is a great outing for all ages and the school really do appreciate support from the Parish. Entrance 25p for adults - children free.

**TABLE SALE** There will be a table sale after the two Sunday Masses on 28th June. We have received a large donation of books, all new and in very good condition, so do pick up some holiday reading! We would particularly welcome any wheeled toys which your children/grandchildren have grown out of, as these are always in great demand.

**IRISH EVENING** on Friday 10th July at 7.30. An evening of Irish music and dancing with a light supper. Entrance £5 - all proceeds to go to the building fund. Lists will be available next week.

**CONFIRMATION** Bishop John Hine will be visiting the parish to confer the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 13th November at 7.30pm. Anyone not yet Confirmed and born before **1st September 1996**, i.e. starting Year 9 or above in September, can apply (you need to have been baptized and have made your First Communion). Classes will begin in July before the schools' summer break. Application forms are available from Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Michael.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

**St JOHN FISHER SCHOOL** has a vacancy for a teacher of Music from September 2009 or January 2010. Please see the advertisement on the schools' notice board. Closing date Wednesday 24h June.

**THE FRIARS' SUMMER FAYRE** Sun-

day 21st June 11am to 4.30. Mass at 5pm. Come and join The Friars for a family day of fun. There's a great Noah's Ark of animals for children to pet and some lovely vintage cars to keep the adults entertained, plus games, craft stalls and so much more. Entry is just £2.50 per adult, children free. See the poster in the porch.

**DAY OF CELEBRATION** at Aylesford for sharing in the gifts of people with disabilities. Sunday 12th July. Gathering Service at 12noon followed by various activities. Concluding with Mass at 4pm. See the poster in the porch.

**YOUTH FESTIVAL '09** At Aylesford Priory on Saturday 4th July from 10.30am to 8pm. A day of varied activities, music and celebration for secondary school years. See the poster or email [info@scys.org.uk](mailto:info@scys.org.uk).

**St JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP** This highly popular summer camp for children costs only £130 per week. Boys, aged 8-13, 18th-25th July, 25th July to 1st August and 1st-8th August. Girls 9-12 years old 8th-15th August. See the poster in the porch for details.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: ON MEDICINE FOR LIFE** There can be nothing sadder than listening to someone who believes that they are not good enough to go to communion. They feel that they are unworthy and they simply stay put in their seat when the rest of the congregation gets up to eat and drink the body and blood of Christ during the celebration of Mass. Of course none of us is good enough. That's why we say, "Lord, I am not worthy..." just before we approach the altar. We realise that we mere human beings cannot presume to receive such a gift without acknowledging our unworthiness. But beneath this idea of unworthiness there lies a fatal

error. Communion is not for good people. It's not for saints. It's for people who are not very good, who are sinners but who want to get better. Our feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus et Sanguis Christi) teaches us that communion is not a reward but a medicine. When we eat and drink (both!) Christ's body and blood we are signing up to be better. Some of the Church's early hymn-writers used a lovely phrase to describe the eucharist: they called it food for the journey. An ancient hymn (O, Esca Viatorum: O, Food of Travellers) makes it clear that the eucharist is not some celebratory picnic on the journey but is the survival rations, the staff of life. At the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the eucharist he commanded us to eat and drink and to do this in memory of his death and resurrection. God has made an agreement (a covenant) with us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. He will be our God and we will be his people by ratifying the covenant: by eating and drinking in memory of Jesus. The eucharist is our way of signing-up again and again to the promises of God, showing our renewed commitment and gratefully receiving God's gift. Saint Ignatius of Antioch called the eucharist "the medicine of immortality, the antidote which prevents us from dying so we can live forever in Jesus Christ." On the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ we share in communion here on earth, and we pray that one day we may be found rejoicing together at the everlasting meal of heaven.

**ATTENDANCE** last week at mass was **393** and the collection came to **£574.50**. Thank you. The retiring collection for the National Catholic Fund amounted to **£202.19**.