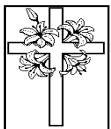


## DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 3rd January 2010

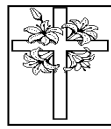
### ✠ The EPIPHANY of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

<b>Sun 3</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Marie & Michael Keating RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Tino Mosca RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		4.00pm	<i>Benediction</i>
<b>Mon 4</b>	Feria of Christmas	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Bert Batchelor RIP
<b>Tue 5</b>	Feria of Christmas	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: James Lane RIP
<b>Wed 6</b>	Feria of Christmas	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Finola Bishop RIP
<b>Thu 7</b>	Feria of Christmas	7.00am	✠ Mass: Mary & Stephen Cunningham RIP
<b>Fri 8</b>	Feria of Christmas	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Dec'd members of Bishop Family
<b>Sat 9</b>	Feria of Christmas	10.00am	✠ Mass: Peter Vella RIP
		10.30am	<i>Confessions and Exposition</i>
<b>✠ The BAPTISM of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠</b>			
<b>Sun 10</b>	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Holy Souls
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Celebrant's Intention <i>Baptism of Blaise Welch</i>
		<i>The end of the Season of Christmas</i>	

Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Fitzgerald, recently dead; his funeral Mass will be on Monday 11th January at 11am, and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:



Michael Walsh, Edward Crittenden, Benito Balducci,  
Frances de Wit, Bert Batchelor, Clarice Deere,  
Finola Bishop, Josefa Almeida, Frederick Weller,  
John Abela and Liam Byrne.



*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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Website: [www.ourladyofgillingham.org](http://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 —

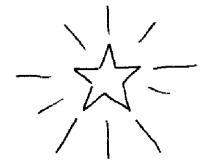
3rd January 2010

### ✠ The EPIPHANY of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

#### WORD of GOD

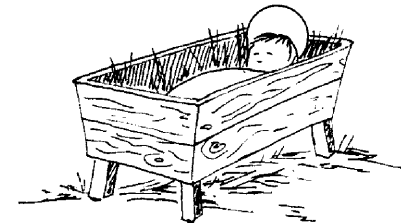
Above you the Lord now rises  
and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

*(Isaiah 60:2-3)*



#### WORD for TODAY

Christ has been born among us and now lives through us. We are called to be individual epiphanies or manifestations of God's presence in our world. A Christian can be a privileged sign of God's glory, a light to those in darkness.



#### SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT...

We can join Pope Benedict in his prayer intentions for the month of January:

#### Young people and Social Communications Media General:

That young people may learn to use modern means of social communication for their personal growth and to better prepare themselves to serve society.

#### Christian Unity

##### Missionary:

That every believer in Christ may be conscious that unity among all Christians is a condition for more effective proclamation of the Gospel.



## 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.

**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.

**PAPERS** Please Note that the price for Catholic Life is now increased to £3.50 per copy - still very good value for an interesting and informative monthly magazine.

**SOUTHWARK DIRECTORIES** are also now available from the repository: just a few, containing all you ever wanted to know about the Diocese and Catholic life such as *Communion more than once a day, the Eucharistic Fast, Holy Communion under both kinds* (p 148) and the new arrangements for *Holydays of Obligation* (p 150). £3.00: essential for those who celebrate Morning Prayer in common in church since it indicates which

week of the four-week cycle the Church is following.

**YEAR of PRIESTHOOD** For the remainder 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.

**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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** The next session will be on Saturday 9th January at 5.30pm in the McMahan Hall.

**LADIES' TEA PARTY** On Saturday 16th January we are 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.

## AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

### FAITH IN FOCUS: NOT OVER YET

All that preparation for Christmas and only ten days later it seems so far away. Gone are the Christmas adverts for food, drink and presents and we're all rushing to buy that last leather sofa on offer (hurry, sale must end next Monday!) or drooling at the adverts for our luxury cruise around the world, or maybe just the camping holiday... But the Church recognises Christmas as a season, not just a bank holiday. And we have two echoes of the Christmas event that keep it alive in our hearts and minds: Epiphany (today) and the Presentation of the Lord (in about a month's time). The word epiphany is a most uncommon one. What it actually means is manifestation or showing. It recalls the day when the glory of God was made visible and accessible through the birth of the child Jesus. The wise men, coming from virtually the edges of the then-known world, represent the fact that the glory of God has been revealed to every corner of the globe: from the Great River to earth's bounds, as today's psalm tells us. Epiphany is about universalism. No one has a monopoly on God and Christ did not come for some sort of elite group but for every single human being of all time. The three wise men came to do homage to Jesus because they felt he was special to them and to their people. Even people who have no evident outward religious expression often indicate that the simple message of Christmas is

one that still appeals to the human heart. In fact, St Leo the Great was fond of saying that there can be no strangers at Christmas because God has graced us all, saints and sinners, with the gift of his own Son. But like every liturgy, Epiphany does not leave us simply looking at the past. It coaxes us to change and renewal in our daily life of faith and to make a difference to the future. If we celebrate Epiphany as the making visible of God's gift of true humanity in the person of his Son, then we are also agreeing to be "epiphanies" ourselves, to be thankful people who never cease praising God for his many gifts and who show God's graceful presence in our world by the way we ourselves live. Christmas may have come and gone, but Epiphany reminds us that it's not over yet. We've a lot of showing to do.

**ATTENDANCE** We do not have figures for the attendance at Mass last weekend, but attendance appeared to be quite good. We received **£420.75** in the collection - many thanks. ■ Parking from the football yielded **£192** - thanks to the stewards who stand out in the cold. ■ We gratefully acknowledge donations to the Building Fund amounting to **£850**. The Building Fund now stands at **£28,500**. This donation is lodged with the diocese and is gaining interest. **Next weekend** is our annual White Flower Appeal in aid of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. There will be a retiring collection for this cause, and further reading material will be made available at the back of the church.