

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 28th MARCH 2010

✠ PALM SUNDAY of the LORD'S PASSION (C) ✠

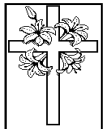
Sun 28	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Weronika Oszywa RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Ben De Souza RIP <i>Begins promptly in the Scott Hall</i>
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo <i>Begins promptly in the Scott Hall</i>
Mon 29	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Deceased relatives of Vallejo Family
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
Tue 30	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Katie Streatfield
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
Wed 31	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
Thur 1 April	MAUNDY ✠ THURSDAY	8.00pm 10.45pm	✠ Mass of the Lord's Supper: Moise Polelei RIP <i>Watching until 11pm</i> <i>Compline</i>
Fri 2	GOOD ✠ FRIDAY	10.00am	<i>Children's Service (Followed by Confessions)</i>
		3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death <i>Followed by Confessions</i>
Sat 3	HOLY ✠ SATURDAY	10.00am	<i>Confessions</i>
		11.30am	<i>Blessing of the Polish Easter Food (in English)</i>

✠ EASTER SUNDAY ✠

The RESURRECTION of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Sun 4	Saturday	8.30pm	✠ Easter Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Santa Lucia Tizzano RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Marie Magdelene Keating RIP <i>Baptism of Martyna Tryankowska</i>

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Mitchell and Roland Dunne, recently dead, and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:



Ivy McCann, Eva Perfect, Margaret Campion, Cyril Fleming, Cecilia Maynard, Jane Liston, Weronika Oszywa, Angelo Cilloni, Derek Knapp, Edwin Wickens and Peter Negus.



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

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]

Registered Charity 235468

28th March 2010

✠ PALM SUNDAY of the LORD'S PASSION (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

The crowd cried out: Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
(Luke 19:38)

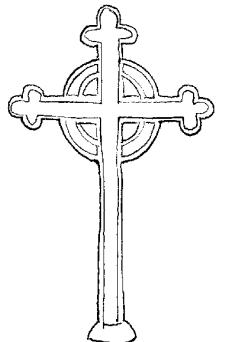
WORD FOR TODAY

During this most important week in the Church's year we can either decide to be spectators like the crowds who watched from afar, or we can join actively in the liturgy and ask that God's Spirit may renew us in our commitment to dying and rising with Christ. Day by day, and especially during the Triduum, the choice is ours.



PALM SUNDAY Today we begin the week that changed the world, the week that saw momentous events of cosmic significance. This is the week in which the battle for humanity's future was fought, the week in which evil, sin and death challenged our human life but lost. No longer can these evils drag us down. No longer need we fear them. But before we can enjoy the fruits of Christ's victory we have to pass through suffering and death with him and then rise to the glory of new life. As we wave our palms and sing our hosannas we acclaim the Prince of Peace, the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world, and the redeemer who has come to set us free.

The children's liturgy today will continue after we have begun our Mass in the Scott Hall; parents, please follow our catechists' directions.



AROUND the PARISH

HOLY WEEK In view of the Chrism Mass being on the Wednesday of Holy Week (31st March) our parish Mass that day will be at 7am. ☩ Take a Holy Week poster and display it in your windows.

TABLE SALE this weekend in the Scott Hall after both Sunday Morning Masses. **The repository** will be selling Easter related items, as well as gifts and keepsakes for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, etc.

WALK of WITNESS North Gillingham Churches will be holding their annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday morning, gathering at the Black Lion (War Memorial) at 11.00 and proceeding along High Street to Smith Square for a service at 11.30 and afterwards at the Baptist Church in Green Street for 'seasonal refreshments'. ♦ Parishioners are welcome to attend a service for the Polish custom of blessing Easter food. The service will be in English and held on Holy Saturday at 11.30am in the church. If you know any Polish families who may wish to come, please let them know. A similar service is held in Polish at St Francis' Church, Maidstone (☎ 01622 756217 for details).

READERS' PRACTICE There will be a practice for those reading at the Easter Vigil on Good Friday at 7.00pm in the church.

R.I.P. We have been advised of the sudden death of Roland Dunne, son of David and Kathleen Dunne, on 16th March aged 54. His Requiem Mass will be at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Clarence Rd, Herne Bay on Thursday 8th April at 11am. ✨ Please remember also Mary Mitchell who died recently. Her funeral will take place at Woodlands Cemetery chapel on Monday

12th April at 12.30.

EXPOSITION We expose the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays after the morning Mass for the duration of Confessions. On Holy Saturday there will be no exposition, but we will resume exposition on Easter Saturday for the remainder of the *Year for Priests*. Please pick up a leaflet explaining and encouraging Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS In response to a suggestion from the Vision group, Mass on the First Friday of each month will in future be celebrated in the evening at 7.30. This will begin in May.

VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOLS Some supermarkets are again giving vouchers for school equipment. Please collect them and put them in the marked box on the windowsill in the porch. These are a great help to our parish school in providing extra items for the children.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICE is at St Thomas', Rainham, on Tuesday 30th March at 8pm.

The CATHOLIC CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE has organised an open meeting with the three parliamentary candidates for Gillingham. A range of topics will be raised, such as abortion, sex education, &c. For more information, see the poster in the porch, or contact Joe Viotto on 364452.

A DAY WITH MARY on Saturday 10th April at St Simon of England, Ashford. The day starts at 10am. See poster in porch.

MY DAY by DAY for Easter is available on the table in the porch.

MASS in CELEBRATION of MARRIAGE This annual Mass is for couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th,

60th and beyond wedding anniversaries. At St George's Cathedral on Saturday 12th June at 3pm. Couples are invited to apply, thus securing a personal invitation and special arrangements on the day. Please ask Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Michael; there is a list in the sacristy.

FAITH in FOCUS: GOING WITH THE FLOW? When the word "crowd" is used in the gospels it's almost as if it is some sort of audience. The crowd follows Jesus here and there wanting to relish the cut and thrust of the arguments between him and the authorities; it's there for something to eat in the desert, to see the scribes and the Pharisees put in their place or to enjoy a good miracle. Jesus says it's like sheep without a shepherd. And most of all it's fickle. It can change allegiance as quickly as the wind can change direction. So on Palm Sunday we see the crowd gathering to watch its hero as he approaches Jerusalem. The people even spread their coats on the floor in front of him and cheer him as their great white hope in shining armour, even though he is unarmed and riding on donkey. But by Friday the mood changes and the crowd bays for his blood. Offered the chance of releasing a prisoner they choose Barabbas, a well-known criminal. Never trust a cheering crowd. But before we get on our high horses and throw scorn at the crowd, let's admit that we're just the same. We have our moments of great faith and devotion and then the next minute we behave in ways that are far from the gospel. During this Holy Week we are inevitably going to be in the crowd, but we are offered the opportunity of standing out from it, of not simply going with the flow. On Maundy Thursday we are given the chance of pledg-

ing ourselves once more to service of each other, symbolised by the Washing of the Feet, a service that culminates in eucharist. On Good Friday we praise God for the victory of the cross and offer ourselves to be taken, broken and used in whatever way God chooses to use us. And on Holy Saturday, as the Easter event becomes clear, we celebrate the core of our faith that Jesus has conquered all evil and that he invites us to share life to the full. Singing our alleluias means that we are signing on the dotted line to be permanent witnesses of this by our lives. So let's take our place in the crowd. But let's not simply go with the flow.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE This week again, in favour of our annual Joss Bay trip in the summer.

ATTENDANCE Last weekend 371 people attended Mass; the collection came to £777.12. ♦ Last week's collection for the flowers for Easter amounted to £144.78, and we received £25.00 from the tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday. ■ Thank you for your continued support towards the parish, and towards necessary repairs to the buildings. ♦ On **Good Friday** there will be the annual papal collection for the Holy Places of Jerusalem. ☺ The collection **next Sunday**, Easter Sunday, is your personal offering to the Parish Priest; envelopes are available for your convenience.

THE FINAL WORD... "Honesty before God requires the most fundamental risk of faith we can take: the risk that God is good, that God does love us unconditionally. It is in taking this risk that we rediscover our dignity. To bring the truth of ourselves, just as we are, to God, just as God is, is the most dignified thing we can do in this life.

(Gerald May)