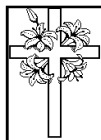


DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd MAY 2010

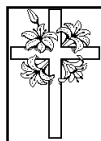
✠ PENTECOST, WHIT SUNDAY (C) ✠

Sun 23	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: James Fitzgerald RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 24	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Patrick Joseph O'Toole RIP
Tue 25	St Bede	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Millicent Good RIP
Wed 26	St Philip Neri	9.00am	✠ Mass: Seamus McEvoy RIP
Thu 27	St Augustine Of Canterbury	7.00am	✠ Mass: Theresa Cottam (in Thanksgiving)
Fri 28	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Dec'd members of Mabon family
		6-7.30pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Sat 29	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Sylvester Kiernan RIP
		10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>
✠ THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (C) ✠			
Sun 30	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Patrick Lee RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Heleno Jeseeph Cecy RIP

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



Patrick Kilmurray, Terence Richards, Tracey Ann Weeks, Robert Morgan, Brendan Kelly, Queenie Good, Alfred Miles, Vera Galvin, Edmond Laffan, Kevin Coburn and Paul Priest.



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]

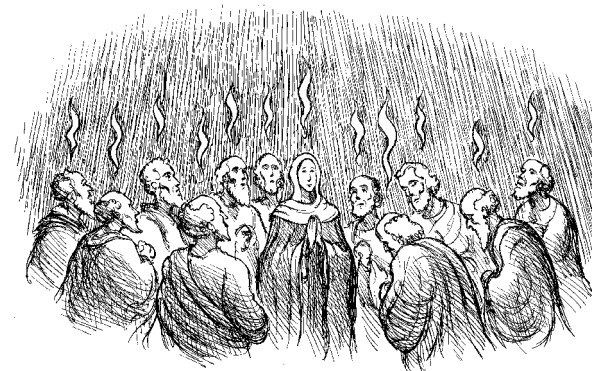
Registered Charity 235468

23rd May 2010

✠ PENTECOST, WHIT SUNDAY (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
 whom the Father will send in my name,
 will teach you everything
 and remind you of all I have said to you.
(John 14:26)



WORD FOR TODAY

The gift of the Spirit is God's reminder
 that we are not alone, not left like orphans
 after Jesus has ascended into heaven.
 God's Spirit inspires us, give us courage,
 instructs and shapes us,
 and makes it possible for us to bear witness
 to the message of Christ in a way that by ourselves
 we could not do.
 That's why Christians constantly pray for
 the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

AROUND the PARISH

WELCOME BACK to Fr Geoffrey, who has been away for two weeks. Our thanks go to Fr Michael, who supplied last Sunday and gave the Holy Ghost Fathers' Mission Appeal. Donations are still being taken for this cause. Special thanks, too, to Fr James Clark and Fr Fitzgerald, without whose help it would not have been possible to have Mass.

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT During the *Year of the Priest* we expose the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays after the morning Mass for the duration of Confessions. ☩ Also, during the month of May, the Bishops of England and Wales have asked us to expose the Blessed Sacrament on the four Fridays '...to pray to God for healing, forgiveness and renewed dedication' as a result of the child abuse scandal that has been such a focus of public attention recently. Please take a copy of the statement by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. There will therefore be Exposition throughout this month on Fridays beginning at 6pm and closing with Benediction at 7.30pm.

CIGARETTE BINS The Playgroup has alerted us to the fact that people aren't using the provided bins to dispose of cigarettes. It is untidy and most of all unsafe for our children who play outside the church and McMahon Hall. Please ensure that cigarettes are put into these bins when finished—they're there for a reason. Thank you.

EASTER DUTIES The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, 30th May. Canon **2042** of *The Catechism* states: The third precept ('You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season') guarantees as a mini-

mum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.

PARISH BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TRAINING There will be a course on the weekend 4th to 6th June. If you are interested in this training we have an application form in the office.

CONFIRMATION Bishop John will be here for Confirmation on Friday 12th November at 7.30pm. Application forms are now available. Please see Deacon Michael.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

A DAY WITH MARY At Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 12th June. Please see the notice on the board.

FAITH in FOCUS: ADVOCATING CHANGE There's a medieval song that was sung in Latin at Pentecost while the deacon carried the gospel-book in the procession at Mass, prior to proclaiming the gospel itself. It's called the Pentecost Sequence and it contains line after line that speaks about the gift of the Holy Spirit. It describes the Spirit as Lord of Light, Father of the Poor, Best Consoler, Sweet Comfort, Healer, Giver of Strength, Renewer, etc. In today's gospel Jesus says he will ask the Father to send the "Advocate". We tend to think of an advocate as someone who campaigns on a particular topic: an advocate for equal rights or an advocate for better housing conditions. In fact, the word advocate really means someone whom you call to stand by your side in solidarity. It's the equivalent of the other strange sounding word, Paraclete. Pentecost rounds off Jesus' saving work on earth as the Spirit completes the action of Jesus in taking on our humanity and humanising it to the

point where it can glimpse the divine. What we see happening at that first Pentecost is that Jesus has not left us alone like orphans; he has sent the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to be by our side. And the effects are immediate. From being a frightened bunch of weak men, huddled for safety behind a locked door, the apostles are transformed by the Spirit's presence, are emboldened to go out and confront their fears, proclaiming their faith in Christ to people from every race and nation. Someone once said that we should pray as if everything depended on God but act as if everything depended on us. Certainly this is true of the Spirit. We are only too aware of our weakness and our inability to "go it alone" when it comes to living out our faith and telling others about it. That's why we pray constantly for the outpouring of the Spirit in our lives, that we may be transformed, strengthened, inspired and supported in our Christian lives. One thing that we cannot do it to restrict the Spirit. If we ask for the Advocate then we agree to an adventure in faith that has no boundaries. After all, we call on the Spirit just to make us feel good; we ask for the Spirit to come and transform creation: *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth!*

FROM BISHOP JOHN (From a recent letter to the clergy.) "Pope Benedict XVI is to visit England and Scotland on a four day Papal visit from 16 – 19 September 2010. Being a State Visit, and being much shorter than the pastoral visit here of Pope John Paul II, it will be a very different experience, but further information will reach you as soon as it is finalised by the organisers, particularly in relation to a London event. Some of the scheduled occasions will be distinctly religious events for our Church in England, Wales and Scotland

(for example the Beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman in Coventry, public Mass in Glasgow, prayer vigil in London, etc) and will inevitably involve major expense. Some effective fund raising initiated by the Bishops' Conference has raised the major part of the funds, but also there will have to be a Sunday collection taken in all the churches of our three countries to meet the costs. Consequently, the Bishops' Conference has agreed that there will be a collection on **Pentecost Sunday 23rd May 2010** in all parishes in England, Wales and Scotland. Each diocese has a target figure in order to raise £1m from England and Wales, excluding gift aid. Our target is approximately **£87,000** and since this is considerably more than the average second collection, I hope you can encourage your people to be extra generous for this special occasion. You will be receiving in each parish a package including a letter from Archbishop Vincent Nicholls, instructions regarding the collection, gift aid envelopes, four posters and sufficient prayer cards for everyone attending Mass on Pentecost Sunday."

ATTENDANCE We had **346** people attend Mass in our church last weekend, and we received **£611.11** in the offertory. Thank you. The second collection for the Holy Ghost Fathers came to £419.48. ♦ **This weekend** there is a **collection** for the **Holy Father's visit** (see above). our collection for World Communications Day will be taken up on Trinity Sunday, next weekend Thank you.

THE LAST WORD "Every time we say "I believe in the Holy Spirit", we mean that we believe there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it." (J. B. Phillips)