

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 22nd NOVEMBER 2009

✠ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING ✠

Sun 22	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Bernard McKenna RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Lucy Singh, in thanksgiving
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		12.30pm	<i>Baptisms: Daisy Allison and Ruby Wilson</i>
Mon 23	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: The Holy Souls
Tue 24	SS Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, martyrs	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Winifred Brown RIP
Wed 25	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ School at Mass: Santan Alvares RIP
Thu 26	Feria	7.00am	✠ Mass: The Holy Souls
Fri 27	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary and Michael Julian RIP
Sat 28	Our Lady	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Agnes Pointer RIP
		10.30am	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</i>

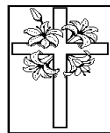
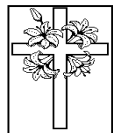
✠ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) ✠

Sun 29	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Cyril Firth RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Johannus and Elizabeth Buck

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jean Hartnett, recently dead, and for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:

Chester Starr, Marjorie Templeton, Edwin Staples, John Aylward, Margaret Clark, Peggy Reynolds, Lorraine Steggle, Germaine Marozzi, Hermina Aboydeera, Carmen DeSilva, Kathleen Wright, Leo Martin, Armelle Bequari, Hugh Crosby, Alice McGrath, Mady Sayer, Raymond King and Toni Paynter.

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]

—Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468—

22nd November 2009



✠ CHRIST the KING ✠

WORD of GOD

Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth, and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.

(John 18:37)

WORD for TODAY

Our liturgical year reaches its end and climax as we are faced with Jesus who is deluded, deceitful or divine. We have followed him throughout the year and trusting in his promises we celebrate him as the

Christ of God, the Lord of our lives, the Saviour of the world and our King.

YOUTH SUNDAY (November 22nd)

Is religion for old people who are getting ready to die? Is it about some boring events that took place long ago but which are not relevant to the world of today? Are teenagers who believe in Christ just sad people with no friends who just go to church because they don't fit in with their mates? Has modern society overtaken the need for faith so that Christianity no longer has anything to offer? This is what the last pope had to say about it:

“Dear young people, do not be content with anything less than the highest ideals! Do not let yourselves be dispirited by those who are disillusioned with life and have grown deaf to the deepest and most authentic desires of their heart. You are right to be disappointed with hollow entertainment and passing fads, and with aiming at too little in life. If you have an ardent desire for the Lord you will steer clear of the mediocrity and conformism so widespread in our society.”

(Pope John Paul II)



AROUND the PARISH

MASSES This year's diary is full and next year's diary is beginning to fill up. If you wish to book a Mass for a loved one, please see Fr Geoffrey of John Allison after Mass, or pop into the parish office on a Friday morning.

PARISH VISION There will be a Parish Vision meeting this Monday, 23rd November, at 7.30pm in the McMahon Hall.

YEAR of PRIESTHOOD Starting this Saturday we shall be exposing the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays after the morning Mass for the duration of Confessions.

ALTAR SERVERS Lay members of the Church are encouraged to engage in active participation in the Mass and parish life. If there are any people who have made their First Communion and wish to become altar servers, they are welcome to join the Guild of St Stephen. Please see Fr Geoffrey or John Allison, the parish M.C. Thank you.

HOUSING PROBLEMS? If you are a home owner or private tenant please note that the Council is holding a two day Housing Advice Drop In at the Sunlight Centre in Richmond Road on 24th and 25th November. If you would like advice on assistance for repairs, or advice and assistance if you are in private rented, then do drop in. There will also be someone to advise on energy efficiency in the home. If you cannot attend, then ring the Private Sector Housing Team on 333066.

LEGION OF MARY The Legion supports the Parish Priest in his pastoral work, particularly in visiting the sick and housebound, and is always ready to welcome new members. Meetings

are in the presbytery (2A Ingram Road) so if you are interested please feel free to come along at 10.30 on any Thursday morning. Meetings are an hour of prayer and reflection in honour of Our Lady, as well as being an opportunity to meet other parishioners and take part in the active work of the Church.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH There will be a Christmas lunch in the Parish Centre on Sunday 20th December; £10 per head and £6 for children. A full Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. If you wish to attend, please put your name on the orange list at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Please remember to check our repository for a very good selection of Christmas cards and other seasonal items.

GILLINGHAM FOOTBALL When our team are at home our church car park is used by both home and away team supporters. This provides us with valuable income (usually around £170 per match). If you can offer your services twice a month on a Saturday lunch time to collect money and marshal the cars please do let us know. So far this season the takings have amounted to just short of **£1,800**. Our thanks to those who already help.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES NEEDED (A message from Cabrini.) The Cabrini Children's Society is seeking to recruit adoptive families for the large number of children who desperately need new parents. We need Catholic families for single children, groups of brothers and sisters, children with disabilities and children from black and other minority

groups. All the children have experienced loss and trauma, but all can benefit from family life. If you feel you have something to offer please ring us – a 'phone call doesn't commit you to anything but we would like to hear from you. Please contact us at the Cabrini Children's Society, 49 Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 2XB. Telephone 020 8668 2181 or email adoption@cabrini.org.uk mentioning 'Parish Campaign'.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS There are prayer cards for priests on the windowsills in the porch. Please take one, and also a list of the priests in the Diocese from the table.

FAITH IN FOCUS: A TALE OF THREE KINGDOMS We use the word kingdom quite a lot in our liturgy. At every Mass we pray the Lord's Prayer asking, "Thy kingdom come". We acclaim God by saying, "For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever". And we ask for "the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever". The first words Jesus speaks in St Mark's gospel are "The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand". On one level the kingdom is past. Christ came to establish the kingdom of God and so it already exists. What sort of kingdom did he set up? Some people thought it might be a political kingdom to overthrow the Roman occupiers, but Jesus said the citizens of the kingdom would be the poor, the gentle and the persecuted. Do we really want "Thy kingdom come" if this is what it means? So if the kingdom has already been set up, then it must also be present somewhere today. If we live in it, then how should we behave? When we pray "Thy kingdom

come" we are telling God that we want to live under the reign of Christ the King. Do we let Christ into our lives or is he someone we have heard about but who doesn't impinge on our daily existence. St Paul says that today is the day of salvation. Do we try to make our todays conform with the kingdom or do we separate our daily lives from our religious beliefs? Do the values of God's kingdom feature in my life, my family, my job? Who's in charge of my life, who's the king? "Thy kingdom come"? Christ the King is not someone dead and buried. He is the Risen Lord and he leads us on to discover even more of the joys of the kingdom that he has established here on earth. He promises never to abandon us and to be with us always. Christ is king of our tomorrows and shows us the way to fullness of life, on both sides of the grave. So his kingdom is also a future reality and that's why we pray for the peace and unity of the kingdom where God now lives. The Father showed his great love for us by sending his Son. Christ himself now walks by our side. God waits for us in all our tomorrows. Past, present and future: a tale of three kingdoms that are really one.

ATTENDANCE at Mass last weekend was **344** and we received in the offertory the sum of **£479.38**. This Sunday is both the Feast of Christ the King and National Youth Sunday; there is a retiring collection for the **Catholic Youth Service**, an agency of the Bishops' Conference promoting and coordinating youth work. ♦ Next week there will be a retiring collection for the **Cathedral**, the mother church of the Diocese. This collection helps to meet the cost of the upkeep of our Cathedral, St George's in Southwark.