

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 30th MAY 2010

✠ 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 Joseph Cecy RIP
Mon 31	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Mahoney RIP
Tue 1 June	St Justin	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Eleuterio Sequeira RIP
Wed 2	Feria	9.45am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		10.00am	✠ Mass: Sean Dufy RIP
Thu 3	SS Charles Lwanga and Companions	7.00am	✠ Mass: Peter Walsh RIP
Fri 4	Feria	7.30pm	✠ Mass: Bernadette Beare RIP
Sat 5	St Boniface	10.00am	✠ Mass: Seamus McCullough RIP
		10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>
✠ CORPUS et SANGUIS CHRISTI (C) ✠			
Sun 6	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Zeuli Giovanni
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Jeffery Allison RIP
		4.00pm	<i>Devotions and Benediction</i>

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



Eileen Lisgarten, Melissa Morris, Debra Grey, Agnes Ball, Laurence Rebello, Joshua Paine, Sean Duffy, Eleuterio Sequeira, George Owens, Clodagh Parris, Alan Bunting, Seamus McCullough, Irene Mason, John Flannery, Doris Boxhall, David Boxall, Margaret McGargle, Peter Seath, and Rosina Hare.



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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30th May 2010

✠ THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

Glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

(cf. Apocalypse 1:8)



WORD FOR TODAY

The feast of the Trinity celebrates an explosion of love: a Father whose love gave rise to the world and all who inhabit it; a Son whose love took him to the point of giving his own life so that we might live life to the full; and a Spirit whose love for us is such that he guides us into the truth and sustains us for everlasting life.

AROUND the PARISH

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT During the *Year of the Priest*, which ends 19th June, we expose the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays after the morning Mass for the duration of Confessions.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST Customarily, at Mass on Corpus Christi, ministers renew the commitment to their ministry. This has not happened in recent years as we have celebrated First Holy Communion on Corpus Christi. Since the children are making their First Communion the following weekend (12th/13th June) our Eucharistic Ministers are asked to renew their commitment at whatever Mass they attend on **Corpus Christi**, next weekend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Our children are making their First Holy Communion at the evening Mass on Saturday and at the 11am Mass on Sunday 19th and 20th June. Please pray for the children and their families on their special day. Tip: come to the 9.30 Mass if you wish to avoid the crush.

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

CALENDAR NOTES We are now in the Ordinary Time after Easter, Week 9, Ferial Cycle 2, Sunday Cycle C and Psalter (the *Divine Office*, Volume III) week 1. The paschal

candle is kept by the font and the candles of the newly baptised are lit from it. It may be used at funerals in place of the six catafalque candles.

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

COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES The Diocese is looking for an Adviser for School and College Chaplaincy from September 2010 until August 2013. If you are interested please see the notice on the board.

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE will be holding a Youth Festival at Aylesford on 3rd July from 10.30am to 8pm. For further details please see the notice on the board. We have a booking form in the office so please see Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Michael. There will also be a World Youth Day in Madrid from 14th to 22nd August. For further information contact SCYS on 01227 272900.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE All are invited to join the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 20th to 27th August. Travel by rail from £630, by air from £680 or by coach from £465. Young helpers' fare (by coach) £455. For further information and booking forms contact: Deacon Michael Kennedy (Pilgrimage Director) 4 Orbel Street, Battersea, London, SW11 3NZ, rcaspilgrim@btinternet.com, tel. 07521 519482.

FAITH in FOCUS: If we thought we could adequately describe God, then we would surely be fooling our-

selves since God is too great for our limited minds to be able to grasp and process. In fact, St Anselm's famous statement about God was that God is that being greater than which nothing can be imagined. If it takes you a while to work out what that means, then don't worry; you're not alone! But we're still left with the problem of having to use some words to talk about God. What we tend to do is to use our daily human experience to try to come close to what God is really like. The bible compares God to a parent, usually to a father but sometimes to a mother. Parents are the authors of life for their children. So to call God a father is to say that he is responsible for all that lives and breathes in our universe. He is our creator. When we talk about Jesus as the Son, it does not mean that he is less important than the Father; it simply implies closeness of relationship. We speak of the Son as communicating what God is, as the loving embodiment of God who does not want to see us floundering in the ups and downs of life, but wants us to enjoy every moment of our God-given existence to the full. He is our redeemer. The Holy Spirit is on a par with both Father and Son, and is the natural outflowing of their love. The Spirit is the daily presence of God among us, inspiring us to good, uplifting us to better things, leading us into the truth. He is our sustainer. This is how we tend to talk about God, inductively; using our own life experiences as a measuring-stick

for what God is and what God does. But it comes as no surprise to learn that each of the three persons in this Trinity is co-equal and that their activity overlaps. So if we want to be correct we cannot simply equate the Father with being the creator, because the Son and the Holy Spirit both create, the father and the Spirit redeem and the Son and the Father sustain! Maybe what we can do on this feast of the Trinity is simply to thank God just for being our God and for bothering to have us as his sons and daughters. We may never understand God until we see him face to face. But that shouldn't stop us loving him.

ATTENDANCE last week was **381** and we received **£526.96** in the offertory. Our collection towards the cost of the Papal visit came to **£389.77**, whilst those attending Mass at Medway Hospital last weekend contributed **£640** - our thanks to everyone for their support. ♦ We are grateful to the donor of **£1,000** towards the Building Fund and to others with donations amounting to **£59**. ♦ Our collection for **World Communications Day**, postponed from 16th May, will be taken up today. The Catholic Communications Network provides support for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in promoting the Gospel in the media. Please be generous. Thank you.

THE LAST WORD Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. (John Wesley)