

OUR LADY OF GILLINGHAM



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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO, registered charity 1173050

28th July 2024

✘ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR B ✘

Reading 1	Jer 23:1-6	<i>The remnant of my flock I will gather and I will raise up shepherds to look after them.</i>
Psalm	Ps 22 r.2	<i>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i>
Reading 2	Eph 2:13-18	<i>Christ Jesus is the peace between us, and has made the two into one.</i>
Gospel	John	<i>The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the</i>
Acclamation	10:27	<i>Lord, I know them and they follow me.</i>
Gospel	Mark 6:30-34	<i>They were like sheep without a shepherd.</i>

Readers this week; 6.30pm Oliver Perez/Kieran Shannon 9.30am Edeji Family
11.30am Joseph Kuruvilla/Titus Eneh 6.30pm Chidubem Uche/Ancy Kumar

Readers next week; 6:30pm Augustine Eghomare 9.30am Vincent Obi/Nnamdi Eke
11.30am Rowvena Benoy/Dinah Kansime 6.30pm Ugochi Uche/Stamley O-Krakue

- ✘ Please pray for Nino Fantetti, Patrick Sullivan and Francis Rodriguez who have recently died and for all the following whose anniversaries occur about this time:
- ✘ Bill Lawson, Thomas Brennan, Peter John, Tom Killyleagh, Doreen Abela, Nuala Hanley, Paul Appleton and James Colgan.
- ✘ May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen

Weekly Offertory – the collection amounted to £957.58 of which £268.70 was Gift Aided collections included Contactless payments, and Football parking amounted to £135.00

Thank you.

PARISH NOTICES

TODAY 28TH JULY IS GRANDPARENTS' SUNDAY - The theme chosen by the Holy Father - "Do not cast me off in my old age" (cf. *Psalm 71:9*) - is meant to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture. In this year of preparation for the Jubilee, which the Holy Father wishes to be devoted to prayer, the theme of the World Day is taken from Psalm 71, the plea of an elderly person who reflects on the story of his friendship with God. By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness, in the awareness that - as Scripture states - "It is not good for man to be alone" (*Gen 2:18*).

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY – That the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may grant the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones.

PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY MEETING -SATURDAY 10 AUGUST – As previously mentioned, this will be the first Youth meeting for those parishioners aged between 16 and 35 years old. The meeting starts at **4.30 pm** in the Parish Hall and dinner will be served at 7.30pm after the 6.30 pm Vigil Mass. Please put your details on the form at the back of the church.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOOD BANK –300kg of groceries and toiletries have been donated so far this year.

The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all our parishioners for supporting the FOOD Bank. From the money donated to the SVP box in the wall in the church porch and from the donations at the SVP Tuesday coffee mornings, we were also able to buy more supplies for vulnerable people. If you were to buy just one item when shopping it would be a great help but only if you can afford it. There is a list of suggestions in the church porch near the BLUE box. Two small items rather than a large bag would be ideal!

THANK YOU – Nicly Croft would like to thank all those parishioners who donated to her sponsored walk for Parkinsons Disease in June. She raised a total of £865.00! Well done, Nicky.

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, LONDON is holding a Celebration of St Faustina's Birthday at **Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent** on Bank Holiday Monday 26 August 2024 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All are welcome.
Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

✘ **MASS INTENTIONS** ✘

Saturday, 27th July
Vigil Mass

6.30pm Intentions of Elaine Keating &
Repose of the soul of Panji Zimba

Sunday 28th July`

9.30am Repose of the soul of Derek Knight

11.30am Repose of the soul of Jude Okoro

6.30pm Pro Populo

Monday 29th July

Saints Mary, Martha & Lazarus

10.00am Repose of the soul of Jude Okoro &
Bernard Gallagher's intentions

Tuesday 30th July

St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop

10.00am Repose of the souls of Jude Okoro &
Ken Brice

Wednesday 31st July

St Ignatius of Loyola

10.00am Repose of the soul of Jude Okoro &
Anniversary of Fr Adrian Osuagou

Thursday 1st August

St Alphonsus Liguori

10.00am Intentions of Ilya & Harry

Friday 2nd August

Saint Eusebius of Vercelli

10.00am Spiritual welfare of Beryl Brooker

7.30pm Repose of the soul of Ruth Kirwan

Saturday 3rd August

Our Lady

10.00am Repose of the soul of Violet Smith

Followed by Exposition and Confessions

Vigil Mass

6.30pm Repose of the soul of Nuala Hanley

NOTE WELL

We welcome Fr. Damasus Okoro CSSp to our parish. Fr Damasus has come supply in our parish for two weeks.

Fr. Dennis Bukenya will go to attend the Provincial Chapter of the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) at Chester on Sunday 4th August. He will be away for one week.

For parishioners who feel they have a vocation to serve in the Church as permanent deacons please come and see the Parish priest or Deacon Michael Knight.

Deacons' stories



Deacon Alfred Banya

One morning I picked up a leaflet from the back of a church in south London. It was the first time I learnt about married and celibate deacons and opportunities for serving the Church through the Permanent Diaconate. Although something told me it was what I had been searching for in my faith journey, I dismissed it.

Over the following five years the feeling repeatedly came back to me, but I put it off. During Christmas of 2007 the feeling became so intense that I could no longer ignore it. I recall going to my then parish priest and telling him that I had decided to apply for the Permanent Diaconate. Nearly dropping to his knees, uttering "Mother of God" he made the sign of the cross. Beaming with a smile, he said, "It will open all sorts of avenues". I did not understand what he meant.

Looking back now, coming to 12 years since my ordination, indeed unexpected avenues have opened. I have found myself exercising my ministry of charity as a hospital chaplain leading a multi faith team. This has been alongside my ministry of the word and the altar in the parish, which surprisingly seems always 'new'. Most of all my family life has been enriched and I can confidently endorse the assertion that for married deacons, the sacrament of marriage and the sacrament of holy orders mutually enrich each other.