

# OUR LADY OF GILLINGHAM



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**Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO, Registered Charity 1173050**

## 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Fifth Sunday of Lent - C

<b>Reading 1</b>	Isa 43:16-21	See, I am doing a new deed, and I will give my chosen people drink.
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 125 r.3	What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
<b>Reading 2</b>	Phil 3:8-14	Reproducing the pattern of his death, I have accepted the loss of everything for Christ.
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	Amos 5: 14	Seek good and not evil so that you may and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.
<b>Gospel</b>	John 8:1-11	If there is one among you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.

### Readers this week

6.30pm Imelda Cervantes/Francisco Okeke	9.30am Ifeoma Ihuegbu/Sinachi Onyehialam	11.30am Susanna Inya/Shakira Kara	6.30pm <u>Daniella</u> <u>Ibeh/Anastasia</u> <u>Ebifa</u>
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### Readers next week:

6.30pm Betty Sequiera/Augustine Eghomare	9.30am Ann Williams/Tegha Akhebal Tegha	11.30am Titus Eneh/Dinah Kansiime	6.30pm <u>Joan Aruma/Seraphin</u> <u>Borces</u>
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✘ Please pray for Angela Singht†, Michael Corcoran†, Anne Connolly† Clive and Beryl Brooker†, Julieta Gomes†, Maureen Chadwick† and Catherine O'Sullivan† who have recently died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

✘ Eileen Jenkin. Carmina Travaglini, Derek McManus, Weronica Oszwa, Laura Toborek, Edward Wickens, Peter Negus, Muriel Sanders, Patrick Sullivan, Santa Tizzano, Alfredo Cannavina, David Allen & Thomas Smith

✘ May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen

**Collections:** Last week's collection in church amounted to **£689.55** of which **£128** was Gift Aided and the Building Fund received £77.02.



Thank you  
The QR code for contactless payments is shown here

## PARISH NOTICES

**RCIA** - This is a course for those who wish to learn about our faith and Catholic adults who wish to be confirmed. Deacon Michael has organised meetings in the Parish Hall on Wednesday evenings at 7pm

**POPE'S APRIL prayer intention:** For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE PETITION** - there is a Pastoral letter from the Archbishop on the Church's concerns to be read today and also in the newsletter.. If you have returned signed petition sheets to our London office, THANK YOU. If not, send them please to: **Care Not Killing Alliance, 8 Marshalsea Road, London, SE1 1HL** in order that arrangements can be made for the petitions to be presented to Parliament before the Leadbeater Bill's Third reading's looking more likely that the final vote on the Bill in the House of Commons will be delayed until either **16th May** or later. If you have not



yet registered your concerns with your MP you can do so as the **ONLINE** version of the Petition is being kept open for the time being. Please use this website

link <https://carenotkilling.org.uk/petition/> OR the **QR code** in your

parish newsletter so that we can send an even s message to Parliament.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025** – The children will be making their First Holy Communion at their Mass on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon**. The next preparation session for the children will be Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11.45am in the hall and for parents, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 6pm. Should you wish to contact the team please email us at [gillinghamfhc@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:gillinghamfhc@rcaos.org.uk).

**CONFIRMATION** – Deacon Michael is starting Preparation classes in the Parish Hall on Mondays at 7pm. on Monday evenings at 7pm in the Parish hall for those children who are in Year 9 and above. Please see him for further details.

**JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT AYLESFORD PRIORY** – Archbishop John is inviting all of us to the Southwark Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 7 June 2025 Find out more from the poster in the porch or by visiting [aec.rcaos.org.uk/jubileeccelebration](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/jubileeccelebration).

**Walking Pilgrimage** -There is a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral (2 June) to the Friars, Aylesford for which we already have had 80 expressions of interest. Should your parishioners be interested in joining this, please ask them to visit as soon as they are able: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/pilgrimage2025>

Pre-booking for the 90-minute ministry sessions for children (KS1+2) and young people (KS3+4) will commence at 11 am on Wednesday 30 April at [aec.rcaos.org.uk/jubileeccelebration](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/jubileeccelebration). The organisers are also asking for **volunteers** to help on the day. If you might like to help, register to volunteer at [bit.ly/southwarkhelper](http://bit.ly/southwarkhelper).

**Invitation:-Catholic Men's Group** - Catholic men of the parish are invited to come for Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Holy Hour with Rosary, and a talk by Fr Thomas Lynch on understanding the liturgies of Holy Week. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 7-10pm, St Michael's parish, Chatham.. Light refreshments provided. Meet likeminded men and grow closer to Christ and His Mother. Contact [MedwayCatholicMen@outlook.com](mailto:MedwayCatholicMen@outlook.com)

## **Pastoral Letter on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill**

Following my pastoral message in March 2024, I wish to speak to you again about the process by which Parliament is currently considering legalising assisted suicide through the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*. As I made clear previously, concerning this grave matter, as Catholics we maintain a principled objection to this change in law, because we recognise that every human life is sacred: a gift of God, bearing a God-given dignity. We are, therefore, clearly opposed to this Bill in principle, elevating, as it does, the autonomy of the individual above all other considerations.

The passage of the Bill through Parliament, as originally proposed, would lead to a vote in late April on whether it progresses further. This will be a crucial moment and I, together with all the Bishops of England and Wales, am writing to ask your support in urging your MP to vote against this Bill at that time.

There are serious reasons for doing so. At this point we wish not simply to restate our objections in principle, but to emphasise the deeply flawed process undergone in Parliament thus far. We wish to remind you that it is a fundamental duty of every MP to ensure that legislation is not imposed on our society which has not been properly scrutinised and which will bring about damaging consequences.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will fundamentally change many of the key relationships in our way of life: within the family, between doctor and patient, within the health service. Yet there has been no Royal Commission or independent inquiry ahead of its presentation. It is a Private Member's Bill. The Bill itself is long and complex and was published just days before MPs voted on it, giving them inadequate time to consult or reflect upon it. The time for debate was minimal. The Committee examining the Bill took only three days of evidence: not all voices were heard, and it comprises an undue number of supporters of the Bill. In short, this is no way to legislate on such an important and morally complex issue. One consequence of this flawed process is that many vital questions remain unanswered. Can MPs guarantee that the scope of the Bill will not be extended? In almost every country where assisted suicide has been introduced the current scope is wider than was originally intended. What role, if any, will the judiciary have in the process? We were told that judicial oversight was a necessary and vital part of the process; now we are told it isn't needed at all. What will protect the vulnerable from coercion, or from feeling a burden on family? Can the National Health Service cope with assisted suicide or will it, as the Health Secretary has warned, cause cuts elsewhere in the NHS? Can MPs guarantee that no medical practitioner or care worker would be compelled to take part in assisted suicide? Would this mean the establishment of a 'national death service'?

In contrast to the provisions of this Bill, what is needed is first-class, compassionate palliative care at the end of our lives. This is already provided to many in our society but, tragically, is in short supply and underfunded. No-one should be dispatched as a burden to others. Instead, a good society would prioritise care for the elderly, the vulnerable, and the weak. The lives of our families are richer for cherishing their presence.

It is sad reflection on Parliament's priorities that the House of Commons spent far more time debating the ban on fox hunting than it is spending debating bringing in assisted suicide.

I am sure that you will share these concerns. Despite recent events, this measure is still being rushed without proper scrutiny and without fundamental questions surrounding safeguards being answered. This is a deeply flawed Bill with untold unintended consequences.

Every MP, and Government, has a solemn duty to prevent such legislation reaching the statute book. This, tragically, is what may happen. So, I appeal to you: even if you have written before, please make contact now with your MP and ask them to vote against this Bill not only on grounds of principle but because of the failure of Parliament to approach this issue in an adequate and responsible manner.

In his Letter to the Philippians, from which we heard in the Second Reading, St Paul reflects on the difficulties and responsibilities of life. He speaks of 'pressing on' and 'striving' for the fulness of life promised in Christ Jesus. Yet he is totally confident in his struggles because, as he says, 'Christ Jesus has made me his own'. We too have many struggles. We too know that Christ Jesus has made us his own. So, we too press on with this struggle, so important in our times.

## Mass intentions for the week

<p>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL</p> <p><b>Vigil Mass</b></p>	<p>10.00am</p> <p>6.30pm</p>	<p>Repose of the soul of Eleuterio Sequiera <b>Followed by Exposition and Confession</b></p> <p>Mattia's birthday – in thanksgiving</p>
<p>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>9.30am</p> <p>11.30am</p> <p>6.30pm</p>	<p>Silver Jubilee of Fr Patrick Byrne Pro Polulo</p> <p>Pro Populo</p> <p>Safety &amp; well-being of Diego Lopez Baungane</p>
<p>Monday 7<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>10.00am</p>	<p>Repose of the souls of Aubrey &amp; Mary Jamieson &amp; Gillian Knight's intentions Followed by Stations of the Cross</p>
<p>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>10.00am</p>	<p>Repose of the souls of Clive &amp; Beryl Brooker</p>
<p>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>10.00am</p>	<p>Repose of the soul of Anne Connolly</p>
<p>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>10.00am</p>	<p>Repose of the soul of Michael Keating -</p>
<p>Friday 11<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>10.00am</p> <p>7.00 pm</p> <p>7.30pm</p>	<p>Repose of the souls of Mr &amp; Mrs Adams</p> <p>Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Holy Souls</p>
<p>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>Vigil Mass</b></p>	<p>10.00am</p> <p>6.30pm</p>	<p>Cottam Family reconciliation <b>Followed by Exposition and Confession</b></p> <p>Repose of the soul of Anne Connolly</p>

**We apologise for any names that are misspelt.**