

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

*This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.*

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### November 28th 2010: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### WILL JESUS EVER RETURN TO EARTH?



Perhaps it is not very surprising that many people seem to find it difficult to take seriously Our Lord's warning that He will "return at an hour we do not expect". After all, the imagery of the return of Christ in glory can seem like something from a fairy story. Will there really be angels blowing trumpets?

Who can say what something that is yet to happen will be like, especially when that event is described in Scripture as being utterly unlike anything else that has ever happened?

First of all, let us look at the title "Son of Man", which Our Lord uses no fewer than three times in today's Gospel reading. It refers to Himself, of course. But why does He use such a strange title? Why does He not simply say "I" will return?

The first thing to note is that on most of the occasions when the Evangelists quote Our Lord as using this title "Son of Man" about Himself, He is speaking about the future; and not only the near future, but more especially the distant future.

Even when referring to the near future, Jesus speaks of Himself as the "Son of Man" notably when He is speaking about His death and resurrection, which were by far the most important events which were still to happen to Him during His

earthly lifetime whenever He spoke of what was yet to happen to Him.

Therefore when He uses the title "Son of Man" of Himself, Our Lord certainly does not mean that He is *only* a man. He uses it when speaking prophetically about Himself. Jesus's original hearers, for instance, would have been reminded by the phrase "Son of Man" of the way the ancient prophets, especially Daniel, spoke of a mysterious figure who appears in God's presence at the end of Time, wielding great authority over all creation.

Advent is the time of year when we pay particular attention to God's coming into the world as a *man*. He did so first of all over 2,000 years ago in Palestine. But we also need to remember, and to try hard to keep in mind, the fact that this same man, who became Mary's son, will one day return in glory. Then everyone who has ever lived will see Him no longer as He was in Palestine, but as *man* with all His Father's power and with the glory of His own Godhead. This is so hard to imagine that the Church gives us this season each year to try yet again to shape our lives in accordance with its challenge.

If we fully realised that God made man was about to return, and to appear without any warning to bring this world to a complete end—how would we change our lives? That is the purpose of Advent: we are given the opportunity to do what is necessary to meet Christ our Judge. The Advent message of "Staying awake" means that we must not live our lives in a careless and selfish way without thought for the future. We must examine ourselves as though we were already being judged on all our deeds. We must ask for forgiveness for all that we have done wrong, or for all that we have neglected to do. The world around us will continue to live in such a way right until the very last moment, suspecting nothing. Don't be caught out like that, says Our Lord!

#### Sunday November 28th: The First Sunday of Advent (Purple)

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal*
- 10.30 a.m. *High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational English Mass*
- 6.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

#### Liturgical Calendar

*Year 1 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 1 in the Divine Office*

*Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary after the 12.45 & 5.45 p.m. Masses.*

*Holy Hour: Each morning from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Novena Before the Immaculate Conception after the 5.45 p.m. Mass*

*Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass.*

*(For Saturday and Sunday: see over)*

**Monday 29th Monday of Advent Week 1. (Purple)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Novena before the Immaculate Conception at c. 6.20 p.m.**

**Tuesday 30th November: St Andrew, Apostle and Patron of Scotland. Feast. (Red)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Novena before the Immaculate Conception at c. 6.20 p.m.**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

**St Andrew** (1st c.) One of the first of the Apostles to be called, he was originally a disciple of St John the Baptist and was responsible for inviting his brother Simon (Peter) to come and see Our Lord. He is the patron Saint of Scotland, Ukraine, Russia and Romania.

**Wednesday 1st December: St Edmund Campion, Priest & Martyr. Feast. (Red)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Mass at 11.30 for Priests of the Venerable English College**
- **? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Novena before the Immaculate Conception at c. 6.20 p.m.**

**St Edmund Campion** (d. 1581) was a brilliant student at Oxford chosen to give a Latin speech before Elizabeth I, who was so impressed that she planned to advance him in her new Protestant church. But he fled the country to become a Catholic and a Jesuit priest. After several years teaching abroad he returned to England. As well as celebrating Mass and the Sacraments and preaching in the houses of Catholic families, he set up a secret printing press to disseminate Catholic literature which caused immense difficulties to the Protestant authorities who consequently stepped up the search for him. He was captured at Lyford in Berkshire and martyred at Tyburn along with St. Ralph Sherwin, the Protomartyr of the Venerable English College, Rome, and St Alexander Bryant.

**Thursday 2nd December: Thursday of Advent Week 1. (Purple).**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Novena before the Immaculate Conception at c. 6.20 p.m.**

**Friday 3rd December: St Francis Xavier, Priest. Memoria. (White)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Novena before the Immaculate Conception at c. 6.20 p.m.**

**St Francis Xavier** (1506-1552) was a Basque who, as a student in Paris, co-founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) along with his fellow-Basque, St. Ignatius Loyola. He preached the Gospel extensively throughout the Far East with enormous success, and died, worn out by his labours, at the early age of 46 years, on the island of Sancion off the Chinese coast.

**Saturday 4th November: Saturday of Advent Week 1. (Purple). Optional memoria of St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church (White).**

- **Low Masses: at 8 a.m., and in Latin (EF) at 9.30 a.m. in the Shrine.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—concluding with Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Pilgrim Mass at 11 a.m. followed by prayers in Bl John Henry's Shrine.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent) at 5.30 p.m.**

**St John Damascene** (d. 749) was the last of the Greek Fathers of the Church, living in Damascus under Mohammedan rule. He defended the veneration of icons (Sacred Images) against those who falsely taught that such veneration contravened the Commandments. He also wrote many hymns in honour of the Mother of God.

## **December 5th: The Second Sunday of Advent (Purple)**

### **Mass & Service Times:**

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Low Latin Mass (1962 missal)**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass**
- **12.00 noon Family Mass**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational English Mass**
- **6.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction (please note new time)**

**Please pray for the sick:** Elizabeth Priday, Yvonne Pilsbury, Louise Pilsbury, Jacqueline Griffiths, James Foynes, Tony Colquhoun, Miles Drew, Carolyn Knight, Wendy Eddy, Leroy McCoy, John, Michael and Philip McCann and Brenda Molloy.

**Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently:**  
**and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Edmund Hodgson and Fr Joseph du Moulin Browne, both of this Oratory, Charles Henry Rushton, William Corbett, Patrick Logan and Jerry Seary.

**The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, December 4th/5th  
Second Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday 5.30 p.m.:** Jenni Hardwick  
**Sunday 8.30 a.m.:** Murray Wilson-Browne  
**12.00 p.m.:** Chris Sammons  
**5.30 p.m.:** Brendan Cummins

### **Collections last week:**

**Solemnity of Christ the King:**  
**21st November, 2010**  
**Offertory:** £1,709  
**Second Collection:** Catholic Youth Service: £490  
**Organ (for shrine) Fund** £125

*Many thanks*

### **TODAY**

**The SECOND COLLECTION** will be for the Diocesan Development Fund  
**THE PIETY STALL is now open all day on Saturdays from 10.30 a.m., after all Sunday morning Masses and on Sunday afternoons. In the run-up to Christmas, we are again open after the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses.** Commemorative items of Bl John Henry are on sale, together with books about him, and by him. **Advent Calendars, Christmas cards (including those sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need), Nativity sets, calendars, diaries** and other Christmas items are on sale. **We are also selling this year's Royal Mail religious Christmas postage stamps.** (Please remember, you help to support the Oratory by using our shop.)

### **THIS WEEK**

**There will be a HOLY HOUR** from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each day this week, and Adoration from 8.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. on Saturday.

**The NOVENA BEFORE THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, our Patronal Feast, commences on Monday at 6.20 p.m. and continues all week. Please come and join our prayers to ask Our Lady's intercession for our Parish and Community.

**THE VENERABLE ENGLISH COLLEGE of ROME** commemorates its first martyred alumnus, St. Ralph Sherwin, at Tyburn on December 1st, 1581. This year priests who studied in that College (including Fr Paul and Fr Guy) are celebrating the anniversary on Wednesday 1st December in the new Shrine of Blessed John Henry with Holy Mass at 11.30 a.m. All are welcome to join them.

**Our ADVENT TALKS** will be held in the Lower Cloister Hall commencing on Saturday December 4th, and continuing on the 11th, and 18th immediately after the Prayers in the Shrine following the 11 a.m. Mass. (i.e. about 12.15 p.m.). The first talk will be given by Fr Richard on Blessed John Henry's Advent Sermons.

**ST ANNE'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE** is on Saturday 4th December to Support IWIC to raise money to provide a range of services to the Irish and wider commu-

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**LONDON ORATORY CAROL SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP:** It is proposed to take a group from our Parish to the Carol Service at the London Oratory on Wednesday 22nd December. Fr Ignatius Harrison, Provost of the London Oratory, will reserve front row seats for us. There will be time also to visit the shops. The coach will leave Plough & Harrow Road at 10 a.m. and leave London, after the Carol Service, between 9 & 10 p.m., arriving home approximately 2.5 hours later. The cost for the coach will be £15. **Booking forms are to be found at the doors of the church and we would be grateful if you would return your application as soon as possible.**

**ST PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS** (Vernon Rd) **SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PANTO & PARTY** on Wednesday 15 December commencing at 1.30 p.m. "We would like to invite you to join us for festive food and drink, Father Christmas, Bingo, good company and a great fun-filled afternoon". Please call Sheila Pellowe on 0121 454 0895 if you would like to attend.

### **NOTICES**

**RED BOX HOLDERS** are asked to collect their replacement boxes from the back of the church today. *Many thanks.*

**CARE HOME VACANCY:** Sisters of Charity of Saint Paul - Annie Bright Weston House, 6 Norfolk Rd has a vacancy for an elderly lady. For more details please ring Mrs Tina Boyland on 454 1289.

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** organised by the **Knights of Malta** takes place from April 29th to May 6th 2011. Applications are invited from sick, disabled and aged pilgrims. (Nursing and medical care is provided). Accommodation is in the Accueil Notre Dame. Pilgrims are asked to pay £260 towards the cost of £550. This can be reduced in cases of need. Anything over £260 would be gratefully received to help those who can afford very little. For