

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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

September 23rd 2007: The Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year

The Provost writes:

True and False Riches

Financial security has been much in the news these past few days: witness the crowds outside the branches of the Northern Rock Bank, anxious about the future of their savings, drawing out large sums of money for fear of losing it altogether.

None of us can get by without money: neither individuals, nor families, nor the Church herself. We cannot survive on a diet of fresh air. Indeed, in the Gospels themselves Our Lord tells us to use money "tainted as it is", and on another occasion He directed St Peter to find a coin in the mouth of a fish, which was then used to pay a tax! There is, however, a crucial lesson to be learnt from Our Lord in this Sunday's Gospel. He is teaching us what should be our attitude to money, to the world of wealth. In the translation we use at Mass we are told: "You cannot be the slave both of God and of money"; more familiarly we render this as: "You cannot serve both God and Mammon". Mammon is another word for wealth and in the Gospel it is personified as a god in order to remind us just how easy it is to set up money as an idol to be worshipped – to make it the real arbiter of our lives and to regard it as the one thing which really matters.

Most of us at one time or another will know the pain caused by competing loyalties, or incompatible priorities in our lives. We can sometimes succeed in juggling them, but sooner or later they will fall on our heads. Money can be the root of such conflict in our lives, and in our still affluent Western world it can be a very real danger – as we see from the huge increase in gambling on the Internet. But money is only one of the contemporary idols that seek to tear us away from adherence to God alone. There are so many temptations, particularly for our young people, which ensnare us and prevent us from loving God as we should. St Philip used to say that for the young it was the sins of the flesh (and not just sexual sins, but all sorts of self-indulgence) which have to be fought against; for the old it is more often the sins of avarice, of selfishness and greed in all its forms, which need to be uprooted by the grace of God.

We should examine our consciences in the light of today's Gospel and seek to discover just what our besetting sin is, just which particular idol we have set up in our hearts and in front of which we bow down. Then we can ask God to remove it, so that we can love and serve Him alone. We should be praying for the gift of an undivided heart.

There is one other lesson we can ponder today: the cruelty of those people described in the First Reading taken from the Prophet Amos, who seek to oppress and buy up the lowly and the poor. The unethical, scheming and ruthless nature of the world of business in its worst manifestations, has not changed all that much since Amos' day: there are still plenty of people who would "swindle and tamper with the scales", who would cheat and think very little of it. We are offered a choice every day – to love and serve the one Master, Our Lord Jesus Christ, or not; to be honest in small matters just as much as in great, or not. Politicians, financiers, businessmen, and we much smaller fry, have all the same decision to make – to be those trustworthy people to whom God will entrust the true wealth of salvation, or to be those who cannot be so trusted and who therefore lose the one thing that really matters. A stark choice, but a real one: let's hope we get it right.

FORTY HOURS DEVOTION

As you already know, our annual Forty Hours Devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament takes place from October 2nd until October 4th. In recent years the Church has encouraged us all to spend more time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. This is a very positive development and one we should embrace wholeheartedly, as the Sacrament of Our Lord's Presence is the source and summit of our Christian life. As well as receiving Him in Holy Communion, we should take advantage of moments like the Forty Hours to spend a longer time in His company, thanking Him for all His blessings and asking Him for all our needs.

Put the times of the Forty Hours in your diaries or on your calendars now, and so make sure you can find some time to come to be with Our Lord, our greatest treasure. You will not regret it!



Sunday September 23rd: The 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green)

Year 3 or C of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.45 p.m. Tridentine Mass (in the Cloister Chapel) |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) | • Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m. |

The TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK OF THE YEAR: Liturgical Calendar

Monday to Friday: (See overleaf for additional Devotions)

Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

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

<p>Monday September 24th: Our Lady of Walsingham. Memoria. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mass and Procession in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham at 7.30 p.m. <p>Our Lady of Walsingham According to legend, in 1061 Richeldis de Faverches, the widow of the Lord of the Manor of Walsingham Parva, was visited in a dream by Our Lady who requested that a replica be built of the house where the Annunciation took place. The vision was repeated three times. The original shrine became one of the great pilgrimage centres of Medieval times, but was destroyed by Henry VIII during the Reformation.</p>	<p>Sunday September 30th: The TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Green)</p> <p>Mass Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">8.30 a.m. Low Mass10.30 a.m. High Mass12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)12.45 p.m. In the Tridentine Rite (In the Cloister Chapel)5.30 p.m. Low MassVespers and Benediction: 7.30 <p>Please pray for the sick: Carole Halls, Jacqueline Griffiths, Ann Windsor, Desmond Williams, Elizabeth Snape, Edward Snape, Mary Mackay, John McCann, Frank McGuinness, Kerry Mooney, Margaret Corbett, Emma Wilson and Emily Nugent.</p> <p>Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Fr. Richard Dinnis, Ann Stokes and Mary Heggarty;</p> <p>and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Laurence Daly, Fr Peter Allen, Alfred Boswell, Nicola & Giovanni Cozzi, Mary Clarkson, Thomas Mooney, Mary & Patrick Moran, Paul Quinn, Michael Marshall, Tom Gannon, Philip Mills and Henry Moran.</p> <p>Ann Stokes' funeral is on Friday at 12.45 p.m. Cremation at Robin Hood. Reception of remains: Thursday at 4.30 p.m.</p>
<p>Tuesday September 25th: Feria. (Green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Benediction at 8 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction <p>Wednesday September 26th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of Sts Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs. (Red)</p> <p>Sts Cosmas & Damian (d. 303) Arabian twins, they were both physicians who gave their services free to the poor. Following their martyrdom under the Diocletian persecutions, their remains were brought to Rome where a church was erected in their honour and it is one of the earliest churches still in existence.</p>	
<p>Thursday September 27th: St. Vincent de Paul, Priest. Memoria. (White)</p> <p>St Vincent de Paul (1580-1660) Son of a peasant farmer, he was ordained but enjoyed a life of ease until a conversion following being captured by pirates. He escaped with his slave master, whom he had converted, and thereafter devoted his life to those in need, especially slaves and the poor. He founded the Congregation of the Missions (<i>Vincentians</i>) and assisted St Louise de Marillac in founding the Daughters of Charity.</p>	
<p>Friday September 28th: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of St Wenceslaus, Martyr. (Red); or of St Laurence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs. (Red)</p> <p>St Wenceslaus (907-929) Duke of Bohemia, he promoted Christianity throughout his domain with the help of German missionaries. He was strongly opposed by pagans, led by his brother, who eventually had him murdered. He is the Patron of the Czech Republic.</p> <p>St Laurence Ruiz & Comps A layman from the Philippines, he joined a secret Dominican mission to Japan. He was amongst the fifteen who were captured, tortured then martyred at Nagasaki between 1633-37. He was the first Filipino to be canonised.</p>	
<p>Saturday September 29th: Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels. Feast. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mass at 8 a.m. and Sung Mass at 11 a.m.Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m.Benediction at 10.45 a.m.Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of MassVigil Mass of the TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR at 5.45 p.m. (Green) <p>Michael, whose name means "Who is like God" is defender of those who love God. Gabriel, "God's strength" made the most important announcement in history, that of the Incarnation. Raphael, "God's healing" is entrusted with healing and freeing mankind from the devil, as we hear in the Old Testament Book of Tobit.</p>	<p>The following are requested to read next weekend, September 29th/30th, the Twenty-sixth Sunday</p> <p><i>Saturday 5.45 p.m.:</i> Anne Roebuck</p> <p><i>Sunday 8.30 a.m.:</i> Paddy Martin</p> <p><i>12.00 p.m.:</i> Dennis Wood</p> <p><i>5.30 p.m.:</i> Simon Stacey</p> <p>Collections:</p> <p>Twenty-fourth Sunday, 16th September: Offertory: £1,289</p> <p>Second: Fr Hudson's Society: £761</p> <p><i>Many thanks</i></p> <p>The Second Collection today will be for the Diocesan Development Fund</p>

<p>TODAY</p> <p>CANDLES FOR FORTY HOURS : Candles which will be used to adorn the High Altar during our Forty Hours Devotion, 2nd 3rd and 4th October, can be bought today in the cloisters. Please also remember the Altar Society box (by St Charles' Chapel at the front of the church) as those donations will go towards the cost of the flowers for the altar.</p> <p>ORATORY PATRICIANS DISCUSSION GROUP, open to all, meets at 3.15 p.m. in the Oratory House. The Subject is "The Role of Women in the Church".</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>MASS & PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM takes place on Monday at 7.30 p.m. The Walsingham Association will serve light refreshments in the Lower Cloister Hall after Mass.</p> <p>AFTERNOON OF ADORATION AND PRAYER AT REDNAL will take place on Wednesday commencing with Holy Mass at 2.30 p.m. followed by Exposition, and ending with Benediction at about 5 p.m.</p> <p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Our FORTY HOURS DEVOTION takes place next week, commencing on Tuesday 2nd October, with Solemn High Mass of the Blessed Sacrament, at 8 p.m. Watching then follows until midnight. On Wednesday, 3rd, watching recommences at 8 a.m. and continues then until Thursday evening, 4th October. Full details of events will be included in next weekend's Newsletter. Meanwhile, the Watching list for you sign up for half hour slots is now at the back of church and we hope that you will help us to fill every slot!</p> <p>OCTOBER DEVOTIONS : nightly prayer and Benediction at 7.45 p.m. every weekday evening in October, except during 40 hours, commences on Monday 1st October.</p>	<p>The ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LITTLEMORE, Oxford, to celebrate the Conversion of the Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman, takes place on Saturday 6th October. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Pargeter at the Church of Blessed Dominic Barberi and there will be Benediction at the Church of St Mary Immaculate in Warwick. The trip will also include a tour of the college at Littlemore and a talk. Cost £20. Booking forms are available at the doors of church.</p> <p>WORLDWIDE DAY OF PRAYER for peace and to uphold the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death takes place on Sunday 7th October. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2-5 p.m. during which our rosaries will contribute to the several million being said this day throughout the world.</p> <p>NOTICES</p> <p>APF MISSIONS: HOLDERS OF RED BOXES & SUBSCRIBERS: The APF financial year ends on 30th September so those who already hold boxes will be contacted shortly. All boxes will need to be collected (and replaced!)</p> <p>PIETY STALL: For those who have been waiting, "The Call to Fatima" double DVD is now back in stock. Still available is "The Kindly Light" the LIFE OF CARDINAL NEWMAN in 3 Audio CD's: highly recommended, many who have bought it have returned to buy a copy for their friends! The new book 'John Henry Newman In His Time' which includes a chapter by Fr Paul Chavasse is also on sale on the piety stall and is also available from the Friends of Cardinal Newman.</p>
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