

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.

June 21st 2009: TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



WHO IS THIS?

In the Gospel we hear that once when Our Lord and the Apostles were crossing the Lake of Gennesareth, a great storm blew up while Our Lord was asleep in the boat.

The boat was buffeted by wind and waves and was beginning to fill with water. The disciples began to panic. In their terror of impending death they woke Jesus and berated Him, "Don't you care? We're going to drown!" Our Lord's reaction on awaking was simply and immediately to command the storm to cease. Instantly it did so, and the Evangelist tells us "there was a great calm".

What was the disciples' reaction to this amazing event? They were filled with awe. One fear replaced another. If ever we needed an example of the difference between natural fear and supernatural fear, here it is. Fear of the storm's immense fury and destructive force is quite natural. The elements of wind and water in a great storm at sea are truly terrifying. The sense of impending doom can be overwhelming as a man understands only too well how small and powerless he is in the face of such power.

Yet as soon as Our Lord showed His own total authority even over irrational and impersonal forces of nature, a great calm spread over everything. This calm is the complete opposite, or "antithesis" of the storm's blind, raging fury. It is the calm of order and control, of obedience to the authority that commands even the irrational forces of nature. In that sudden stillness the disciples were overwhelmed by the uncanny awesomeness of what their Master had done without any effort, but simply by willing it. He didn't need to command the storm by word or gesture. He did so for the important reason that He wanted the disciples to know that the sudden end to this great storm—strange enough in itself—was not a mere coincidence. It was His doing. He wanted them to understand that though He was a man like them, He was also much, much more as well.

No wonder, then, that they were filled with awe. This is a supernatural fear, the "fear of the Lord", which is utterly different from fear of any other kind. When we ask God the Holy Spirit for His spiritual gift of "fear of the Lord" we are asking for *this* kind of fear, awe in God's presence, a sense of His majestic authority and His total providence. God's authority as the Creator does not cease with the act of creation. In other words, the universe does not simply go on moving under its own self-determined rules. What is true for one small part of nature is true for all. When the astronauts who landed on the moon looked back on the earth in the distance, they saw a beautiful, yet really quite tiny ball suspended in the amazing vastness of space. It was a sight to make anyone giddy. Is that planet which makes us feel both so secure and also yet so small really itself so tiny and insubstantial? Lake Gennesareth is not really so big, though big enough to terrify a boatful of men to fear of death! This planet on which we live is infinitesimally small when seen in the context of the visible universe beyond the sky.

And yet even all that is under God's *complete* authority. That is the challenge Our Lord puts before us today. Do we believe that He is really in control of the universe? Much more importantly, do we believe that He orders everything to our final good? The first reading today comes from the final part of the Old Testament Book of Job, when Almighty God tells Job and his friends the truth about His awesome power. We cannot understand it all. Ultimately, God is beyond our comprehension and we must accept that. But He is not so far beyond our powers of understanding that we cannot recognise with awe and wonder His providential love for us.

Our Lord's final words to the disciples - "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" - are not so much a rebuke as an invitation. It is as though He says to them: "See now what I can do for you. Therefore put your trust in me. But remember that you must trust me in order to receive what I have to give." God is infinitely powerful and loving. In His love for us He invites us to trust in Him. He does not "control" the world and the cosmos as we might try to do, by tweaking now one thing, now another. He allows us to live out our lives yet to learn to call on Him for help when we need Him, if we will accept Him.

Sunday June 21st: Twelfth Sunday of the Year (Green)

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

TWELFTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 4

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Tuesday. Exposition on Saturday: 8.30–10.45 a.m.

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

Monday 22nd June: St John Fisher, Bishop & English Martyr, & St Thomas More, English Martyr. Feast. (Red)

- **Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m.**
- **Blessing with St. Philip's relic at 8 p.m..**

St John Fisher (1459-1535) Bishop of Rochester and friend of Thomas More, he was the only one of the English Catholic bishops who refused to take the Oath of Supremacy, or to acknowledge Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon.

St Thomas More (1478-1535) Chancellor of England and friend of the King's until their fall-out over Henry's divorce and the Oath of Supremacy, he died "...the King's good servant, but God's first". The Roman Martyrology says: "These two men were beheaded for the Catholic Faith and for the primacy of blessed Peter and the Bishop of Rome". They are depicted above the English Martyrs' altar (by the Baptistry)

Tuesday 23rd June: FERIA. (Green) Optional memoria of St Etheldreda, Abbess. (White) St Thomas Garnet, English Martyr.

- **5.45 p.m. Mass—Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of St. John the Baptist's Birth**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

St Etheldreda (d. 679) An Anglo-Saxon princess, she became a nun after having been twice widowed. She founded a double monastery at Ely, and following her death Ely became an important place of pilgrimage due to the many miracles attributed to her. The present cathedral stands on the site of her monastery.

St Thomas Garnet (d. 1608) As a secular priest he was imprisoned for nine months and then exiled. In France, he joined the Jesuits at Louvain but returned to minister in England. He was soon caught and charged for being a priest and although he could have escaped punishment by taking the oath of allegiance to the crown, he refused and was hanged drawn and quartered at Tyburn.

Wednesday 24th June: Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist. (White)

Thursday 25th June: FERIA. (Green)

Friday 26th June: FERIA. (Green).

- **Benediction in Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8 p.m.**

Saturday, 27th June: Our Lady on Saturday. (White) FERIA. (Green) Optional memoria of St Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (White)

- **Masses at 8 a.m. and 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 & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Corpus Christi) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Cyril of Alexandria Patriarch of Alexandria in Egypt, he was appointed by the Pope to preside over the Council of Ephesus in 431, at which Our Lady was declared *Theotokos*, that is "Mother of God", thereby condemning the popular heresy promulgated by Nestorius that She was the mother only of Christ the Man.

June 28th: The Solemnity of SS Peter and Paul. (Red)

Mass & Service Times:

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

Please pray for the sick: Sr Francis Clare, Joan Maclellan, Ray Colquhoun, Connie Hayward, Pat Healey, Peter Young, , May Poppins, David McLean, John Rose, Carole Halls, Marie-Therese Jones, Michael McCann, and Patrick Walshe

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Jean Smith;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Cecilia Tallis, Joe Keegan, Fred Jarvis and Margaret Ellen Bartley.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, June 27th/28th, The Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

Corpus Christi: 14th June, 2009

Offertory: £1,497

Second: Cause for Cardinal Newman's Beatification: £642

Thank you

TODAY

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for the maintenance of the Organ.

Next Sunday, the Feast of Sts Peter & Paul, the second collection will be for the Pope's own charity, "Peter's Pence".

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, *including* Saturday evening.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday, commencing as usual with Holy Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.40 p.m.

The NEWMAN ASSOCIATION (Birmingham Branch) invites you to its **Day of Devotion** led by Fr Stephen Pimlott, at SS Wulstan & Thomas, 32 Vale Rd Stourport, on Wednesday 24th June from 10.45 a.m.-2.30 p.m. Please take a packed lunch.

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, Vernon Rd, invite you to their Flower Festival on 27th & 28th June. Please see poster for details.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS: 19th JUNE 2009—19th JUNE 2010: Following on from the Year of St. Paul which comes to an end on the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, the Pope has announced a "Year for Priests" which began on the Feast of the Sacred Heart last week. *Locally this year will be launched at a Mass in the grounds of Oscott College on Sunday, June 28th at 2 p.m., celebrated by Archbishop Nichols.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (ages 20—35) The next evening meeting will be on Thursday 2nd July at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. There will be a talk and discussion about "The Humanity of the Unborn". New members to the group are wel-

come. Any questions, please telephone Richard: 07905 601 721.

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: 1st—2nd August: Led by Fr Paul. Bookings are being taken for this Pilgrimage costing £80 which includes coach travel, (take a packed lunch), Saturday evening meal, B&B, lunch and high tea. Coach leaves the Oratory on Saturday at 7.15 a.m. (pick-ups also from at St Catherine's and St Chad's). **Please book by 24th June** by telephoning Anne Roebuck on 0121 454 0130

ECUMENICAL SONGS OF PRAISE is at 6 p.m. on 5th July, at St Augustine's. C of E, Lyttleton Rd, Edgbaston.

The FRIENDS OF THE POOR CLARES, Baddesley Clinton, are holding a quiz night at 7 p.m. on Saturday 11th July at Lapworth Hall, Catesby Lane, Lapworth. Tickets £5, or £4 in advance: Please telephone Matthew Bowen: 07801 538 776

ROSARY RALLY TO PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE & FOR YOUNG PEOPLE will be taking place at Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire, on Sunday 16th August commencing with Mass at 3 p.m. and including Exposition, Blessing of the Sick and Benediction.

NOTICES

SIEGE OF JERICHO: Important information: You may have seen the notices advertising this week of prayer against abortion as taking place commencing on Monday 13th July. Unfortunately *this date will not now be possible*. Further information next week. **PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA** (proposed): Sat 5th –12th September: c. £395 (sharing). Speak to Stephanie 4540496 if you are interested.

APF RED BOXES are due in again at the end of this month.

PT TIME TEACHING VACANCY: September—January at Our Lady of Fatima Primary School, Harborne. Please call 429 2900. Details at eteach.com or Birmingham Forward, June edition.