

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.

April 5th 2009: PALM SUNDAY

A WEEK OF CONTRASTS

This is rightly called "Holy Week", since in it we take part once again in the commemoration of Our Lord's sufferings for our salvation, so that we may then go on to share the joy of His resurrection.

On Palm Sunday we not only recall Our Lord's triumphant, yet humble, entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of this week but we also hear the account of His arrest, trial, cruel affliction and crucifixion in the Passion Gospel at Mass. The crowd who cry "Hosanna to the Son of David!" on Sunday, cry "Crucify Him!" only five days later. What a contrast in attitude! How can they be so fickle? We may be puzzled by this, even appalled, yet the truth is that we are just the same. How often do we make good resolutions—to come to Mass regularly, to confess our sins and resolve not to commit the same sins again, to avoid the occasions of sin, to do some good work for the Church and for our neighbour? Yet we either ignore the opportunities that are given to us to do good, or we fall again into sin, and not just under grave provocation but often enough either negligently, or even wilfully—because we can't be bothered to keep up our resolutions! So are we really that different from the Jerusalem crowd?



On Maundy Thursday we have a good chance to pray for greater resilience in the face of weakness and temptation: after the Mass on Thursday evening we are invited to "watch one hour with Our Lord" (Mt 26:40) as He prays to His heavenly Father for the strength to overcome His own human weakness in the face of all that He knows He is about to suffer. He invites us, as He invited His Apostles that night, to join Him in prayer "that you may not enter into temptation". If we are serious about our love for Our Lord and are resolved that all His sufferings on our behalf should not be in vain, then how can we turn aside from that invitation? There is no more wonderful time for prayer in the presence of Our Lord than on the very night that He gave us His Body and Blood at the Last Supper. Watching at the Altar of Repose lasts from the end of Mass (c. 8.30 p.m.) until midnight. Bring all your intentions to Our Lord and also seek to atone for all the times we have offended Him and helped bring about His sufferings for us.

And that brings us to our second great contrast: Maundy Thursday night marks the beginning of Our Lord's Passion, yet it is impossible not to feel great joy and gratitude to Our Lord for the most wonderful and awesome gift of the Eucharist. How thrilled Our Lord was to reach that moment to which He had looked forward so much. He told the Apostles at the very moment the Last Supper began, "With what great longing I have yearned to eat this supper with you before I suffer!" (Lk 22:15). If Our Lord could not keep back from joy at this moment when He was at last going to give Himself sacramentally to His Apostles and His Church to be our food, even knowing all that He was about to suffer, then how can we refuse to rejoice and be glad? We cannot truly rejoice in Our Lord's gift of His Body and Blood if we are not even prepared to be present! For the Maundy Thursday evening Mass is not just a mere commemoration of the Last Supper, it is a real reliving of the event. Our Lord Himself is just as truly and fully present now as then. "Come and share in the joy of your Lord!" (Mt 25:21)

The contrast between the First Mass in the Upper Room on the one hand and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane on the other, and the contrast between the institution of the Sacrifice of the Mass on Thursday on the one hand with its fulfilment on the Cross on Good Friday on the other, are not accidental. They are built into the fabric of our salvation. Our Lord triumphs over sin and death by His suffering, and He invites us to share both in His suffering and in His triumph. They are not two separate realities. It is not as though we can have the glory without the trial. So in order to be ready to celebrate a joyful and triumphant Easter, let us all take a full part in this wonderful week of contrasts that we begin today.

Sunday April 5th: Palm Sunday (Red)

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal*
- 10.15 a.m. *Blessing & Procession of Palms & High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

HOLY WEEK: Liturgical Calendar

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

MONDAY to WEDNESDAY: 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS EACH NIGHT AT 8 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY and HOLY SATURDAY: Please see over

<p align="center">THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM (for more details please see separate sheet)</p>	<p>Please pray for the sick: John Rose, Alf Cooke, Maria Constantinou, John McCann, Bobby Cunningham, Dean Farrell, Patrick Walshe, Katie Hayward, Mary Cunliffe, Raymond Colquhoun, Margaret Casey, and Carole Halls.</p> <p>Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Vera Griffin and Noel Rogers</p> <p>and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Greta Baker, Bernard Beesley, Arthur Hunt, Louisa Cartwright, Julie Broomhead, Annie Rushton, Bernard and Hilda Wood, Mary Dainty, Kathleen Bowen, Josephine Burke and Annie Rogers</p>
<p>MAUNDY THURSDAY: <u>Mass of Our Lord's Supper: 7 p.m.</u> (White)</p> <hr/> <p>GOOD FRIDAY: (Day of Fasting and Abstinence—see below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tenebrae (Office of Readings and Morning Prayer): 8.30 p.m.</i> <i>Children's Stations of The Cross: 11.30 p.m.</i> <i>*Confessions will be heard from 10.30 a.m. to 2.55 p.m. and from 4.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.*</i> <u><i>Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion and Death: 3 p.m.</i></u> <i>Seven Last Words: 7 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross</i> 	
<p>HOLY SATURDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tenebrae (Office of Readings and Morning Prayer): 8.30 p.m.</i> <i>(No Morning Masses)</i> <i>*Confessions will be heard from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.</i> (NO MASS AT 5.45 P.M.) <u>EASTER VIGIL AT 8.30 P.M. AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER</u> 	<p align="center">The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, April 11th/12th, Easterday:</p> <p align="center">Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne 12.00 p.m.: Morag Marinoni 5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney</p>
<p>EASTER DAY (White)</p> <p>Mass & Service Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 in English 7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction 	<p align="center">Collections: <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent:</i> <i>29th March, 2009</i></p> <p align="center">Offertory: £1,656 Second: Diocesan development Fund: £418 <i>Thank you</i></p> <p align="center">The Second Collection at Easter weekend will be the Easter Offering for the Clergy</p>

<p align="center">TODAY</p> <p>The second collection today will be for the Maintenance of our Church.</p> <p>HOLY WEEK TIMES OF SERVICES are available at the Church Doors. Please take one for yourself and any more for friends of relations who might not otherwise be able to get one. Please note that many Masses and other services are at unusual times during the Easter Triduum, from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day.</p> <p>The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses. Easter cards are on sale, including those for Aid to the Church in Need.</p> <p align="center">THIS WEEK</p> <p>ADORATION AT REDNAL takes place this week on Tuesday, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction.</p> <p>PRO-LIFE MORNING OF PRAYER AND WITNESS on GOOD FRIDAY: Walk commences here after Tenebrae (which begins at 8.30 a.m.), so at approximately 10 a.m. to pray outside the Calthorpe (Abortion) Clinic, Arthur Road, returning to the Oratory at 11.45 a.m. Please see the posters in the Notice boards for full details.</p> <p>UNITED SERVICE OF WITNESS on Good Friday at 1.15 p.m. outside Tesco's at Five Ways together with other Christian congregations from Ladywood and Edgbaston.</p> <p>FASTING AND ABSTINENCE. Please note that Good Friday is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence. Fasting means eating only one main meal, and two small "collations" or snacks, without any eating between mealtimes. Everyone who is between the ages of 18 and 59 must observe this law. Abstinence means avoiding all meat of animals, (except fish), including all sauces and soups made from animal flesh. This law obliges everyone from the age of 14 onwards. The Church encourages those outside these age groups to join in as far as possible, and especially that parents train their children in the practice and penitential meaning of fasting and abstinence, by means of which we willingly join ourselves</p>	<p>with the suffering of our Saviour. Of course, the whole of Lent is fasting-time, when we give up some comfort (and/or some food) each day in union with Our Saviour's forty-day fast. Lent ends on Maundy Thursday evening, but it is followed immediately by the Paschal Fast which lasts until the end of the Easter Vigil. Please remember therefore that the Church encourages us all to continue to eat moderately throughout Holy Saturday.</p> <p align="center">FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, April 19th, will be observed here by an afternoon of prayer, commencing at 2.30 p.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, during which there will be the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and Benediction. Mass will be at 4.30 p.m. <i>Confessions</i> will be heard throughout the afternoon from 2 p.m.</p> <p>A Plenary Indulgence is attached to this Devotion, under the usual conditions, i.e. <i>confession, communion and prayer for the Pope's intentions.</i></p> <p>The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB will resume on Tuesday 14th April 12-2 pm to discuss the writings of Catholic Apologist Raymond De Souza. All women are welcome. Contact Mrs Jackie Parkes 0121 688 4154 rosary@blueyonder.co.uk for more details.</p> <p>CONCELEBRATED MASS COMMUNERATING CARDINAL NEWMAN'S MINISTRY AT ST ANNE'S, ALCESTER STREET (1849-1852) will be offered on Wednesday, 22nd April at 7 p.m. by Bishop Gilles Cabazon, OMI, Emeritus Bishop of St. Jerome, Quebec, Canada. The Preacher will be Fr Paul. Mass will be followed by a Reception hosted by Trident Housing in Cherish House (opposite St. Anne's).</p> <p>ST PAUL'S SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION is holding its Annual Buffet in The Old Hall, St. Paul's School, Vernon Road on Saturday 16th May. Doors open at 12-30 for 1 p.m. meal. This is a TICKET ONLY event and tickets (price £11.50) must be bought in advance. Closing Date for Tickets is Saturday 25th April 2009.</p>
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ARCHBISHOP NICHOLS

You will all have heard by now the news that the Pope has appointed our Archbishop, the Most Revd. Vincent Nichols, as Archbishop of Westminster to succeed Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor. Our first thoughts will be to congratulate His Grace on the appointment, a sign of the confidence which the Holy Father puts in him. Our second, third and all following thoughts must be to pray for him as he takes up the post of the most senior Bishop in England. It is, as he himself says, a "daunting" task. Archbishop Vincent came to us from Westminster in the Millennium year 2000 to succeed Archbishop Couve de Murville. Now he is being asked to go back to Westminster again as, one may presume, the future Cardinal. We wish him well and follow him with our prayers and thank him for the good that he has done in our midst during those nine years. We also pray that Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor will be granted many years of peaceful retirement.