

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 20th 2008: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The words of today's Gospel are familiar to those who have taken part in funerals. *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's House."* What does Our Lord mean by these many "rooms"? Some of you may remember an older translation of this word as "mansions" which may conjure up the image of stately homes in heaven! Now the word *"mansio"* in Latin means a *place to stay or rest*—not a palace. Even so, we should not be afraid to think "big"; of course Our Lord is not going to prepare a meagre dwelling-place for us. As St. Paul says: *"no eye has seen and no ear has heard those things which God has prepared for those who love Him"*. Therein lies the secret. **We must love Him. Then all will be given us, and all will be revealed to us, for ever.**

In speaking to us of "many rooms", Our Lord emphasises the infinite variety of heaven and of those who will one day find their everlasting joy and happiness there. Once again, we should not be afraid to think "vast". Heaven will not be boring, not in the least. Because those who will dwell in heaven love God so much, they can never be bored there. There will be many saints, and of many differing characters and histories.

Two of the Apostles then ask questions that many people still ask. First there is Thomas, always the sceptic! When Our Lord tells the Apostles that they know the way to the place where He, the Lord, is going before them to prepare a place, Thomas answers: *"We don't even know where you're going, so how can we possibly know the way there?"* This gives our Lord an opportunity to tell the Apostles the great truth that He is Himself *"the Way, the Truth and the Life"*; so He does not merely bring these, or even bring knowledge of them—He personally *is* all these. That is an extraordinary claim for a man to make. But He *is* an extraordinary man. This is the man they have seen calm the storm, change water into wine, raise the dead and feed the crowds with a little bread and fish. The Apostles know already that He is a man, yes, but also more than a man.

This leads the Apostle Philip to put another question to our Lord: *"Let us see the Father, then, and we shall be satisfied!"* To this Jesus replies with a further question to Philip: *"Have I been so long with you, Philip, and you still do not know who I am?"* So He tells them the reassuring truth that *"to have seen me is to have seen the Father!"* This is so because the Father is "in" Jesus, and Jesus is "in" the Father; therefore they are already **One**. Not only their love, but also their nature means that they are One. So we say in the Creed that Jesus is "one in being (or substance) with the Father." All that Jesus is He will breathe into the Apostles after His resurrection when He gives them the Holy Spirit. Hence they will be able to do even greater works than He has done, not through their own power, but through the Holy Spirit given to them.

During Paschaltide, instead of the *Angelus*, we pray Our Lady's Easter Antiphon:

REGINA CAELI

*Regina Caeli, laetare, Alleluia!
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!
Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!
Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!*

*Then:
Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

*Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!
He whom you were fit to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised has arisen, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God your prayer, Alleluia!*

Let us pray: O God, who have graciously given joy to the world in the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ; grant, we pray, that through His mother the Virgin Mary, we may attain to the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday April 20th: The Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. 1962 rite Mass (in the church) | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction |

FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER: Liturgical Calendar

Monday to Friday: 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 April 21st: Monday of Easter Week 5. (White). Optional memoria of St Anselm, Bishop. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m. <p>St Anselm (1033-1109) He was a Norman monk, theologian, philosopher who became Archbishop of Canterbury. He battled with William II and his son Henry I as they tried to dominate the Church, which led him to periods of exile. He restored English saints to the calendar (removed by his predecessor) and encouraged the ordination of Englishmen. He was known for his spirituality, sensitivity and generosity to the poor.</p> <hr/> <p>Tuesday April 22nd: Tuesday of Easter Week 5. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benediction at 8 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction <hr/> <p>Wednesday April 23rd: Solemnity of St George, Martyr & Patron of England. (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m. <p>St George (d. c.300) A soldier, he is thought to have been martyred in Palestine during the Diocletian persecutions, and was immediately venerated in the East. His popularity spread in the West from about 700, and he was adopted as Patron of England at the time of the Crusades. The legend of dragon-slaying is an expression of his bravery in defending the Faith and the virtue of innocence.</p> <hr/> <p>Thursday April 24th: Thursday of Easter Week 5. (White) Optional memorias of St Adalbert, Bishop. (White); or of St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest.</p> <p>St Adalbert (956-97) Born in Bohemia into a noble family, he became the second bishop of Prague. Following conflict with the Duke of Bohemia, he joined a monastery in Rome. However, the Pope requested he return to Prague. He travelled preaching with great success in Poland, Hungary, Prussia and Russia and was styled the "Apostle of the Slavs".. However, following the massacre of his family on the orders of the Duke, the Pope released him from Episcopal duties. He was martyred himself at Danzig.</p> <p>St Fidelis (1577-1622) A German lawyer, he earned the reputation of "Advocate of the Poor". Nevertheless, corruption in the legal system led to him joining the Capuchins. He used his talents in preaching and writing pamphlets against Calvinism and Zwinglianism. He was sent to preach in Switzerland but his success so angered the Calvinists that he invented a story that he was an Austrian spy and he was stabbed to death.</p> <hr/> <p>Friday April 25th: St Mark, Evangelist. (Red)</p> <p>St Mark: Writer of the second of the four Gospels, he went with Sts Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, and later became St Peter's "disciple and interpreter". He was eventually martyred at Alexandria in Egypt. His relics were rescued and are enshrined in Venice, whose patron saint he became, and still is.</p> <hr/> <p>Saturday April 26th: Saturday of Easter Week 5. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass 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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass <p>First Mass of Sunday: The Sixth Sunday of Easter at 5.45 p.m.</p>	<p>Sunday April 27th: The Sixth Sunday of Easter (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. Vespers and Benediction <hr/> <p>Please pray for the sick Ken White, Desmond Williams, Lorna O'Shea, Vivian Beesley, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Andrew James, Dorothy Price, Ellen Westwood, Grace Naguru and Margaret Casey . Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Danuta Slyzyk, Seamus Whelan, Thomas Christie, Sheila Onions, Brian Clarke and Ron Hall; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Pauline Hayward, Joseph Keegan, Gelsomina Pulisciano, Irene Byrne, James Bartley, Josephine Burke, Guy Collis, Annie Rogers and May Wall.</p> <p>Teresa Lee's funeral is on Friday at 10.00 a.m. (Tridentine Rite). Reception of remains: Thursday at 4.30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>The following are requested to read next weekend, April 26th/27th: Sixth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin 12.00 p.m.: Peter Leather 5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney</p> <hr/> <p>Collections</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Eastertide, 13th April: Offertory: £1,598 Second: Diocesan Priests' Training Fund: £691 Many thanks</p>
<p>TODAY</p> <p>THE SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for the Diocesan Development Fund.</p> <p>The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall after all Sunday Masses, (but NOT after the Saturday evening Mass, this weekend only). There is a large selection of books, including for children, gifts for occasions of baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, rosaries, DVDs, CDs, statues etc., and Catholic newspapers. Come and see!</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession around the grounds.</p> <p>SPUC PRO-LIFE CHAIN: Saturday 26th April from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Hagley Road near the Oratory. You are invited to join this peaceful and silent kerbside vigil, where the pro-life message is witnessed by thousands of passing motorists. The Abortion Act was passed in 1967, and this year marks the 40th anniversary of its coming into force. More than 6,750,000 unborn children have been killed since. Please join the chain, if only for a while. For more details, contact Gill Bowen: 0121 454 8517.</p> <p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM is on Saturday 10th May. Please contact Anne Roebuck on 0121 454 0130 for details.</p>	<p>OUR MAY PROCESSION takes place on Sunday 4th May at 4 p.m. This is a lovely occasion, and we especially ask parents and grandparents to take note. We hope that more children will be there this year than were here last year to honour Our Lady! Remember—</p> <p><i>Unless we show devotion, we will never grow in devotion!</i></p> <p>ASCENSION DAY: A reminder that Ascension Day is now kept on the 7th Sunday in Eastertide, which is the Sunday before Pentecost or Whitsunday. Nevertheless, for those who wish to observe the scriptural anniversary of the Ascension, forty days after Easter, there will be a Solemn High Latin Mass in the Extraordinary rite (1962 Missal) on Ascension Thursday, May 1st, at 8 p.m.</p> <p>NOTICES</p> <p>ALTAR SERVERS: Any men or boys willing to serve Mass especially on Sundays at 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. (but also at certain other times) are invited to speak either to Fr. Paul or to Fr. Guy.</p> <p>The CHOIR AT 5.30 MASS on Sundays welcomes new members. No previous experience of choir singing is necessary, nor ability to read music. Regular weekly attendance not essential. Simply turn up at 5 p.m. on any Sunday at the rear Organ gallery (entrance by the back door of the Church).</p>