

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

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

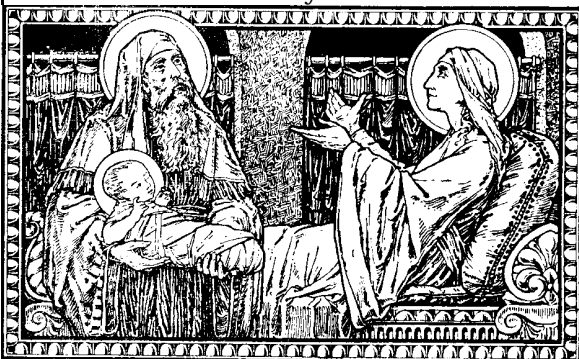
## September 7th 2008: THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### ST. PAUL ON LOVE

Everyone knows the famous passage in chapter 13 of St. Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians, so often read at weddings: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love does not come to an end..." Today we hear another important passage by St. Paul on love, this time taken from chapter 13 in the Letter to the Romans, which we are currently reading Sunday by Sunday at Mass.

He begins: "Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love." St. Paul here describes love as a "debt" in the sense that it is something that we owe. Love is not an option. If we fail to show love, then we fail to be human; in other words, we fail to reflect the image of God implanted in our nature by our Creator. But since love is something we all owe, then we must all owe it to each other. Others owe love to us as much as we owe love to our neighbour. In an ideal world this would work out well. We would all love each other and so bear each other's burdens as God intends. However, we know that this is not actually the case. Because of sin we fail to show love in all circumstances, and others fail to show it to us. We must not let others' lack of love prevent us from showing it to them. Our Lord taught us that the Decalogue (the list of Ten Commandments in the Old Testament), can be summed up in two simple commands: **Love God and your neighbour.** Referring here to the second of those St. Paul here continues: "All the commandments... are summed up in this single command: 'You must love your neighbour as yourself'." He adds a note of explanation: "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour". This is further explained by St. Augustine who famously said: "Love, and do what you will". Given the definition of love found in St. Paul, it is impossible to harm your neighbour if you truly love him or her. The very idea of "selfish love" is, for Our Lord, St. Paul and St. Augustine, a contradiction in terms.

### OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY



Monday is the feast of the birth of Our Blessed Lady. The Church does not usually celebrate birthdays. Our Saints' days are usually, though not universally, celebrations of the days on which they entered eternal life—in other words, their death day. We only celebrate certain special births for particular reasons: The birth of Our Lord, obviously, is the beginning of His visible life on the earth. We also celebrate the birth of St. John the Baptist because his birth was in a special way a preparation for the coming into the world of His cousin, Our Lord, as we learn from the first two chapters of St. Luke's Gospel. Our Lady's birth is special because it marks the entry into the world of the first human person totally free from all sin, by virtue of her Son's future passion, death and resurrection. It is hard for us to visualise the holiness of Our Lady

because it surpasses anything our sinful experience can grasp. Sin has darkened our understanding and our imagination to such an extent that many people tend to believe one of two things: either that sin is part of our natural state (which it is not—since it only came about through the fall of our first parents); or that sin does not radically affect us except in so far as we, personally, choose to sin. Our Lady is the answer to these errors. She is truly free from sin from the very moment of her conception and she remains free from all sin throughout every moment of her life. Her sinlessness is a wonderful witness to the power and grace of God, who in Christ destroyed the hold which sin had over all mankind. The birth of the sinless one, chosen to be the Mother of God, is a moment of joy and light for the whole world. Following from her birthday, Friday is the feast of the "Holy Name of Mary", celebrating the naming of Our Lady as "Mary", the English version of "Miriam", a Hebrew name meaning "Lady". This name wonderfully sums up Our Lady's nobility and her special role as "The Woman" from whom the new creation of grace and redemption will be born into the world.

## Sunday September 7th: The Twenty-third Sunday of the Year (Green)

*Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 3*

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

## TWENTY-THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: 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.*

*Monday September 8th: The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Feast. (White).*

- **Benediction in honour of Our Lady's Birthday at 8 p.m.**

**Tuesday September 9th: Feria.** (Green). *Optional memorias of St Peter Claver, Priest. (White); or of St Osburg, Abbess. (White)*

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

**St Peter Claver** (1580-1654) He joined the Jesuits in Majorca and was drawn to be a missionary in Columbia, the principal slave market of the New World, where he dedicated the rest of his life to the physical and spiritual needs of the Negro slaves as they landed. The conditions in which he worked were frequently appalling. He dubbed himself "the slave of the Negroes forever" and it is estimated that he baptised and cared for more than 300,000. As far as possible, he did not lose sight of his converts travelling to their new work places urging them to keep the Faith, and prevailing on their masters to treat them well.

**St Osburg** (d. c.1016) Thought to have been the Abbess of a convent near Coventry, founded by King Canute, little is known of her but there has been a lasting tradition locally. of honouring her.

**Wednesday September 10th: Feria.** (Green). *Optional memorias of St Egwin, Bishop. (White); or of Bl Agnellus of Pisa, Franciscan. (White). St Ambrose Barlow, English Martyr.*

**St Egwin** (d. 717) He was appointed Bishop of Worcester in 692 and following a vision of Our Lady (said to be the first recorded in England), he built the great abbey at Evesham. He suffered much on account of his strictness against the vices of some of the clergy who tried to discredit him, forcing him to go to Rome to clear his name.

**Bl Agnellus** (1194-1235) Born into a noble Pisan family, he relinquished everything to join the Franciscans. St. Francis of Assisi personally received him into his order and sent him to Paris to start a Franciscan mission, and from there, to England with nine other Franciscans. They settled in Oxford and began the Franciscan English Province, founding friaries also at Canterbury and London. King Henry III was struck by Agnellus' holiness and asked him to broker peace so preventing a civil war. He died at Oxford and his incorrupt body was venerated there until the reign of King Henry VIII and the dissolution of the monasteries.

**St Ambrose Barlow** (d. 1641) He studied for the priesthood at Douai and Valladolid before working in Lancashire. Over a twenty-four year period, he was arrested four times. Finally, he was arrested after Mass on Easter Day 1641, and executed five months later.

**Thursday September 11th: Feria.** (Green)

**Friday September 12th: Feria.** (Green) *Optional memoria of The Most Holy Name of Mary.*

Following the celebration of Our Lady's birth on September 8th., the commemoration of the **Holy Name of Mary** was recently restored to the liturgical calendar.

**Saturday September 13th: St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. Memoria.** (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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of Sunday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, at 5.45 p.m.**

**St John Chrysostom** (d. 407). His eloquence as a preacher earned him the nick-name *Chrysostom* which means "golden-mouthed". He was appointed Bishop of Constantinople, where he defended the poor against the Emperor and the powerful nobles of the City, but this led to his banishment from the city on two occasions. The second was to the extremity of the empire, and he died on the way there.

**Sunday September 14th: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross** (Red)

**Mass & Service Times:**

- **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 Mass in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

**Please pray for the sick:** Sr Anne of the Holy Spirit D.C., Kim Potter, Brenda O'Donoghue, Carole Halls, Kitty O'Driscoll, Marion Arnott-Job, Evelyn Arrigho, Marie-Therese Jones, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey and Frank McGuinness.

**Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Dr. Mary Hall and Mary Irvine; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Austin Mills and Fr Vincent Reade, both of this Oratory, Edward Hill, Richard Wilson-Browne, Tony Ganado, James Hogan, Margaret & Bernadette Ivess, Michael Tomkins and Catherine Frazer.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, September 13th/14th: Twenty-third Sunday:**

**Saturday 5.45 p.m.:** Anne Roebuck  
**Sunday 8.30 a.m.:** Murray Wilson-Browne  
**12.00 p.m.** Eamon Grant  
**5.30 p.m.:** Brendan Cummins

#### **Collections**

**22nd Sunday of the Year, 31st August:**  
Offertory: £1,438  
Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £417

**Thank you**

**Second Collection today is for the DDF**

#### **TODAY**

**The PIETY STALL** is open in the Lower Cloister Hall.

#### **THIS WEEK**

**There will be BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY** on Monday following the Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will take place on Wednesday, afternoon commencing with Mass at 2.30, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and ending with Benediction.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**ST PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OPEN EVENING** for September 2009 Year 7 intake will take place on Wednesday 17th September from 6.15—9 p.m. See the Notice board for more details.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB:** Meetings recommence on Friday, 19th September (12-2 p.m.) . (Please see posters for more details). They will be studying and discussing *Saint Gianna Molla, Wife, Mother, Doctor*. The book is available on the Piety Stall, priced at £8.95, but a refund of approx 12.5% will be given to those who buy from there and attend the book club.

**The LEGION OF MARY** invites past and present Active and Auxiliary members and all interested in supporting its apostolate by prayer/active work, to their September function on Saturday, 20th from 3.30–5.00 p.m. in the Oratory House.

**ARCHBISHOP VINCENT NICHOLS** is the main speaker at an Ecumenical Service in Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday, September

28th at 6.30 p.m. The service is being organised by the Conservative Christian Fellowship. Regardless of political allegiance, please attend this meeting to demonstrate the strength of Christian commitment to ethical issues which arise in Parliament.

**'ABORTION & THE HUMAN EMBRYOLOGY BILL'** is the subject of a Cornerstone Fringe Event, at which the speakers will be Edward Leigh M.P. and Nadine Dorries M.P. and the chairman, John Hayes M.P., taking place on Tuesday 30th September at 1.00 p.m. in the Upper Cloister Hall. All are welcome.

**OSCOTT COLLEGE LECTURE** by Sheridan Gilley: "*Newman's Loss and Gain and Callista*" takes place on Tuesday 30th September at 8 p.m., followed by informal discussion and night prayer. (No tickets required).

**ANNUAL NEWMAN PILGRIMAGE TO LITTLEMORE** takes place on Saturday 4th October. The trip will include a tour of the College, Confessions, Mass at the Church Of Blessed Dominic Barberi (Celebrant and Preacher: Bishop Kenney), a talk on "Newman and St Paul", and Benediction at the Carmelite Priory at Boar's Hill, Oxford. Tea and coffee will be provided at lunch-time, but you will need to take a packed lunch. Coach leaves the Oratory at 9.00 a.m. and returns at 6.45 p.m. (approx). Cost £20. Booking forms are available at the church doors.

#### **NOTICES**

**SVP:** Please support the SVP this month. Further details follow.