

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.

October 28th 2007: The Thirtieth Sunday of the Year



THE PHARISEE AND THE SINNER

In today's Gospel Our Lord tells the parable of the Pharisee and the sinner who went into the Temple to pray. Our Lord's message is that the danger for the good person, who obeys the rules, is that of superiority and pride. A sinner is not better than a proud Pharisee unless and until he asks for forgiveness with true humility.

ALL SAINTS DAY

Thursday is the Solemnity of All Saints, when we both commemorate and thank God for the salvation of all the holy men and women in heaven, and also ask them for their prayers as we make our perilous journey through life. As Cardinal Newman prayed: "May my lot be with the Saints!" In recognition of the great importance of this feast in our lives, the Church observes it as a HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION on which ALL Catholics must attend Holy Mass just as we must on all Sundays.

ALL SOULS' DAY

After All Saints, and indeed throughout November, we pray for the souls of those who have died and are still being purified before they can be with God—the Souls in Purgatory. In recent years there has been a decline in understanding of the importance of praying for the dead. This is a sad mistake. Purgatory does not mean God lacks mercy, **but that we lack holiness**, so that we must be purified before we can enter God's presence in heaven. This purification can be assisted by our prayers and sacrifices. To help the souls through Purgatory into heaven with a Plenary Indulgence all that is necessary is to come to church on Friday, and pray the "Our Father" and the Creed. **Not much to ask, but what a gift to the souls!**

A BITTER ANNIVERSARY

The Cardinals of Westminster and Edinburgh have jointly written an Open Letter to mark the 40th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967. They restate the unchanging evil of the killing of innocent life in the womb and appeal for a change of heart to bring about an end to this carnage which has destroyed over 6,000,000 lives in this country alone. They comment on the great progress made in knowledge and understanding of the unborn child's unique individual personhood in order to appeal to politicians and people alike to consider afresh the horror of abortion. They draw attention to the fact that abortion has increasingly been treated in recent years as a form of contraception—thus proving as prophetic Pope Paul VI's teaching in his 1968 letter *Humanae Vitae*, which characterised the "contraceptive mentality" as anti-life.

They call upon society to change its whole attitude to life in the womb and to the problems which so often pressurise women and girls into choosing abortion as a way out. They call for greater facilities to be made available to help mothers and their families to accept children positively as a gift, not as a disaster.

We have a duty to act. No change will come about in society without a great deal of questioning and informing. Yet we must also recognise that there is huge pressure to keep people ignorant of the truth about abortion. For instance, a few years ago, several people were arrested in Cardiff and charged with indecency simply because they tried to draw people's attention to the truth by showing them pictures of aborted babies. Last year, Ted Atkinson was sent to prison for sending similar pictures to the staff of a hospital in which abortions were being performed, and then out of sheer vindictiveness he was refused NHS treatment which he needed. So there is a huge mountain to be shifted. But if we do not do so, who else will? Our Lord will one day ask all of us what **we** did to help save His unborn brothers and sisters from unjust death.

A final thought—this year we are celebrating the 2nd centenary of the abolition in 1807 of the Slave Trade between Africa and the Caribbean. This wasn't easily won. It had taken William Wilberforce some forty years to overcome setbacks, ridicule, lies, stubborn opposition, greed and cruelty before eventually justice was done, thanks to his determination and profound Christian faith. We must be similarly prepared for the same kind of long and unrelenting struggle for justice for the unborn. **Later generations will surely view this struggle in the same way as we now hail the end of slavery.**

Copies of the Cardinals' letter are available at the Church Doors. Please take some for yourselves and others.

Sunday October 28th: The 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green)

Year 3 or C of the Lectionary at Mass

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

The THIRTIETH WEEK OF THE YEAR: Liturgical Calendar

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR EXCEPTIONS THIS WEEK
Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass

Monday October 29th: Feria. (Green).

- **October Devotions at 8 p.m.**

Tuesday October 30th: Feria. (Green).

- **October Devotions at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Devotions

Wednesday October 31st: Feria. (Green)

- **October Devotions at 8 p.m.**
- **N.B. Tomorrow is a Holyday of Obligation**
- **The 5.45 p.m. Mass is the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of All Saints & fulfils the Obligation.**

Thursday November 1st: SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS (White)

Holiday of Obligation

- **Mass at 7.30 a.m. ; 11.00 a.m. (Oratory Primary School Mass: all welcome);**
- **12.45 and 5.45 p.m.**
- **Latin Mass (according to the 1962 Missal at 5 p.m. (in the Cloister Chapel)**
- **Solemn HIGH MASS at 8 p.m.**

Friday November 2nd: Commemoration of All Souls (Black)

- **Low Mass at 7.30 a.m.; 12.45 and 5.45 p.m. and at other times of the day according to arrangements made by the Celebrants.**
- **Low Mass (according to the 1962 Missal) at 11 a.m. in Church**
- **Solemn HIGH REQUIEM MASS at 8 p.m.**

Saturday November 3rd: Our Lady on Saturday (White); or Feria. (Green); or optional memorias of St Martin de Porres, Religious. (White); or of St Winefride. (White)

- **Low Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Sung Requiem for the deceased Fathers and Brothers of the Oratory: 11 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **Vigil Mass of the THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR at 5.45 p.m.**

St Martin de Porres. (1579-1639) Born at Lima, Peru. At fifteen he became a Dominican lay brother and had a great desire to be a missionary and a martyr, but as this was not possible, he devoted himself to hard work and penance. His great love of God was also demonstrated in his care and kindness to humans and animals. He even maintained an animal hospital. He was blessed with many graces and, like Padre Pio, he could bi-locate. He also possessed great spiritual wisdom and was sought as an adviser by many, including the learned of his Order and bishops.

St Winefride (also known as Gwenfrewi) (7th c.). Legend has it that she was the sister of St Beuno and was restored to life by him following being decapitated. She became a nun, then abbess of the convent of a double monastery at Gwytherin. A spring is said to have sprung up where her head had fallen. Holy Well or St. Winifred's Well remains a centre of pilgrimage and many cures have been reported over the centuries.

Sunday November 4th: The THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Green)

Mass Times:

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

Please pray for the sick: Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville, Margaret Casey, Janina Stolarewicz, Frank McGuinness, Joan Murphy, Jacqueline Griffiths, Miles Drew, Carole Halls, Margaret Corbett, Desmond Williams, Elizabeth Snape, Edward Snape, Mary Mackay, John McCann, Kerry Mooney and Emma Wilson. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Olive Shelton and Maisie Murphy; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Charles Heurtley of this Oratory, John Acquaye, Frank & Helen Gardiner, Mary Crossley and Arthur Girling.

The following are requested to read next weekend,

November 3rd/4th, the Thirty-first Sunday

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Tracy Butler

Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins

12.00 p.m.: Sr Hilary

5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

Twenty-ninth Sunday, 21st October:

Offertory: £1,206

Second: APF: £772

Thank you

The Second Collection today will be for the Johnson Fund (for retired and infirm clergy)

Next week's Second Collection will be for the Church in China (see the Notice below)

TODAY

HOLY SOULS' ENVELOPES are at the doors of the church for you to place the names of the dead for whom you wish prayers to be offered during November, the month of the Holy Souls. Please put the envelopes in the box at the Holy Souls' altar (left hand side of the church) **but please do not put money in them. THEY ARE NOT FOR MASS OFFERINGS.**

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABORTION ACT: A Memorial Concert will take place on Thursday 8th November at 7.45 p.m. **Tickets £5 are available after all Masses this weekend.** Please see poster for more details of the concert.

PIETY STALL: A beautiful selection of Christmas cards from *Aid to the Church in Need*, and others, together with cribs, advent calendars, calendars, diaries, children's Christmas books, etc now on sale.

THIS WEEK

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS : nightly short meditation, Rosary and Benediction at 8 p.m. will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS for the Holy Souls take place on Fridays in November at 8 p.m. after the Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place on Wednesday beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Please continue to pray for the protection of Rednal.

ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS/ carers: The series of short talks continues on Monday and will be on Confirmation. **Year 6 parents are particularly recommended to attend.**

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH will meet on Saturday, 3rd November, at 12 noon in the Oratory House. **All are welcome.**

SUMMERFIELD AND CENTRAL LADYWOOD "YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD" meeting takes place at Centennial Centre on Icknield Port Road next Saturday morning (November 3rd). See the Notice Board or flyers at the Church Doors. We would be very grateful for as many of you as possible who live in this area to attend and make our concerns known to our local politicians. Please see Fr. Guy if you can go, so that he can inform the organisers.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The CHURCH IN CHINA: Fr Eamonn O'Brien will make an appeal at all Masses next weekend for CEC (Cultural Exchange with China) whose main funds are used for training Church personnel, priests, nuns and laity and it also sponsors students for long-term studies in the UK. It is hoping to raise the funds to build a monastery and help a contemplative community of religious sisters.

NOTICES

The ORATORY GRAND PRIZE DRAW will be held on Saturday 5th January (as the Epiphany falls on Sunday next year). We would be most grateful for contributions of prizes (please note that they must be in new condition, ie unused!). In particular, we would like to be able to offer some cash prizes. We are very grateful indeed to the kind person who has already donated the First Prize of £500.

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL: making plans for New Year's Eve? Why not consider seeing in the New Year with Our Lord? Exposition from 9.30 p.m. with prayers (as requested by Our Lady of Fatima) for World peace, the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins against her Immaculate Heart. Mass of the Solemnity of the Mother of God will be at 11.45 p.m. Refreshments will be served after Mass.