

# 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.*

## March 16th 2008: Palm (or Passion) Sunday



### Holy Week In Jerusalem: The Work of our Redemption

At last we have arrived at Jerusalem for this week, rightly called "Holy Week", the most important of the year. On this Sunday we commemorate Our Lord's triumphal entry into the holy City, acclaimed by the crowds waving palm branches and crying "Hosanna!". This triumph is so soon to be followed by His sufferings. Nevertheless, His sufferings are not a reverse of His triumphal entry, but are its fulfilment. Our Lord came not to establish an earthly kingdom, like an Emperor or a military leader, but rather He came to found a kingdom of truth and love. It is this which shines out on the cross. Our Lord is victorious in His acceptance of death which He could have avoided had He wished. As He prays in today's Passion according to St. Matthew, "Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me, nevertheless, let it be not as I will it, but as You will it." The week ahead will see the unfolding of the implications of this prayer.

### Conscience

Our talks on Conscience have proved very timely. How often have you heard a phrase like this: "I'm fed up of religious people ramming their religion down other people's throats!" Well, the very people who complain about it, are the same ones who are now doing just that to everyone else! It is the secularists who hold the whip hand and are ramming their anti-God, anti-faith agenda down all our throats! Witness this Government which is absolutely determined to force all Labour MPs to vote for animal hybrids, abolition of the right to a father, and easier abortion, just as they have already forced all the Labour members of the House of Lords to do. If any MPs refuse, they will lose the party whip, and if any Cabinet Ministers refuse, they will lose their jobs. This, in an age when it doesn't seem to matter what other misdemeanours you commit—nothing actually is regarded as serious enough to lose your job, except the crime of voting according to your conscience. This is why it is of great importance to give as much encouragement and support as possible to the three Catholic members of the Cabinet who have been threatened with the sack if they vote against this evil Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, another full scale piece of secular religion being rammed down our throats. These three Catholic MPs, Ruth Kelly, Paul Murphy and Des Browne, are all under huge pressure to conform to the secular juggernaut. This is neo-Nazism, where the State is right and the individual conscience has no rights. Don't be hoodwinked by apparent "concessions" that they may be allowed to abstain. They must be allowed to vote NO, and not to be sacked for following their conscience. Please write, fax, email or even telephone these three witnesses for the truth and offer them your warmest support. It does you a world of good when you're under that kind of pressure to know that there are people praying for you and cheering you on against the encroaching forces of tyranny! (Email and phone nos. overleaf.)

### Archbishop Rahho RIP

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Archbishop Rahho of Mosul in Iraq last week, after being kidnapped by unidentified terrorists. Only recently the Archbishop wrote to "Aid to the Church in Need" (ACN) asking for prayers for peace and stability for his terror-stricken homeland. The Director of ACN, Fr. Allende prays "that the blood shed by this disciple of Christ may serve the re-establishment of unity among the people of Iraq. But, as Jesus taught us on the Cross, we must also pray for forgiveness for the murderers 'who know not what they do'. God wash clean the hands stained by the blood of this terrible crime". Let us pray ever more fervently for the Church in Iraq. May this good bishop rest in peace.

### Sunday March 16th: Palm Sunday (Red)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

- 8.30 a.m. Low Mass
- 9.30 a.m. 1962 rite Mass (in the church)
- 10.15 a.m. Blessing and Procession of Palms  
(Commencing in College Sports Hall)  
followed by Solemn High Mass
- 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)
- 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass
- Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m.  
(N.b. Palms available only at High Mass or after)

### HOLY WEEK: Liturgical Calendar

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: No Mass at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 a.m. or 5.45 p.m.

## THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

(for more details please see separate sheet)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: Mass of Our Lord's Supper: 7 p.m. (White)**  
**\* Confessions before Mass\***

**GOOD FRIDAY: March 21st. (Day of Fasting and Abstinence—see below)**

- **Tenebrae (Office of Readings and Morning Prayer): 8.30 a.m.**
- **Children's Stations of the Cross: 11.30 a.m.**
- **\*Confessions will be heard from 10.30 a.m. until 2.55 p.m. and from 4.30 to 7 p.m.\***
- **Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion and Death: 3 p.m.**
- **Seven Last Words: 7 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross**

**HOLY SATURDAY: March 22nd**

- **Tenebrae (Office of Readings and Morning Prayer): 8.30 a.m.**
- **(No morning Masses)**
- **\*Confessions will be heard from 10.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m.\***
- **(NO MASS AT 5.45 P.M.)**
- **EASTER VIGIL AT 8 P.M. AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER**

**EASTER DAY : March 23rd: (White)**

**Mass & Service Times:**

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin 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**
- **Solemn Vespers and Benediction: 7.30 p.m.**

**Please pray for the sick** Margaret Ginelly, Lorna O'Shea, Danuta Slyzyk, Jon Jarvis, Vivian Beesley, Ken White, Wyn Xenaky, Bridget Genockey, Derek Butowski, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Dorothy Price, Ellen Westwood, Margaret Casey, Jacqueline Griffiths, Sandra McCann and Desmond Williams. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Archbishop Rahho of Mosul, Iraq (*Martyred*), Vincent Baker, Carmel Howe and Peggy Archer; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Bro Aloysius Boland of this Oratory, Michael Brennan, Katy Brooks, William & Anna McNamara, George Bernard Dunn, Emmie Worrall and Kate Brooks.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, March 22nd/23rd Easter Day**  
 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.: Simon Stacey

### Collections

The 5th Sunday of Lent, 9th March:  
 Offertory: £1,656  
 Second: Maintenance of St Chad's Cathedral:  
 £630  
 Many thanks

**The second Collection today will be for the DDF**  
**The second collection next weekend will be the Easter Offering for the Clergy**

### TODAY

**PALM SUNDAY: The Blessing of Palms begins at 10.15 a.m. in the college Sports Hall**, processing to church for High Mass at 10.30 a.m. (**Palms are blessed on this occasion and become available only then and thereafter**)

**HOLY WEEK NOTICE SHEETS:** please remember to take one of these with you today if you have not already done so. The times of all Masses and other services throughout this week, and especially from Thursday, are very different from usual.

**LENTEN ALMS:** The box for your Lenten alms-giving is near the Plough and Harrow Door. Proceeds are for Father Hudson's Society. The Proceeds will be brought to the Altar at the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, the day that Lent ends.

### THIS WEEK

**THE SEVEN CHURCHES WALK: Monday 17th March, from 2 pm. to 5.45 approx.** We begin at St Catherine's, Bristol Street, and continue to St Chad's Cathedral, St Francis', Handsworth, the Convent of Mercy, (also Hunter's Road Handsworth), St Patrick's, Dudley Road and St Paul's Convent, Vernon Road and finish at the Oratory arriving back, hopefully, in time for the evening Mass at 5.45 p.m. You are welcome to join for one or more "legs" of the journey, **however**, please remember that you need to be mobile: **the walk is unsuitable for anyone who has difficulty walking.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS take place this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 p.m.** (after Rosary at 7.45)

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. As usual in Passiontide, there will be a meditative reading of one of Cardinal Newman's sermons for the season during Adoration.

**GOOD FRIDAY is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. *Fasting consists of eating one meal at any point during the day, and at two other times taking only a "light collation" or snack. All persons between their 18th birthday and their 60th birthday are obliged to keep this law. Abstinence from meat and food containing meat products must be observed by all who have reached their 14th birthday.***

**GOOD FRIDAY PRO-LIFE MORNING OF PRAYER AND WITNESS:** Walking commences from here after Tenebrae (8.30 a.m.) to

pray outside the Calthorpe Clinic, Arthur Rd, returning to the Oratory at 11.45 a.m. Please see the posters for full details.

**The NOVENA BEFORE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Commences on Good Friday.** Leaflets will be available on Maundy Thursday. Also, books and other literature on the subject of Divine Mercy, and images are available at the Piety Stall in the Lower Cloister Hall.

**ECUMENICAL ACT OF WITNESS** on Good Friday, takes place as usual outside Tesco's at Five Ways from 1.15 to approx 1.30 p.m.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AFTERNOON:** March 30th. Adoration and Confessions from 2.30 p.m. ending with Holy Mass at 4.30 p.m.

**EX CATHEDRA** is performing Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday April 5th in Symphony Hall. For tickets telephone 0121 780 3333

### NOTICES

**TO CONTACT CATHOLIC CABINET MINISTERS:**

**Des Browne—tel 01563 520627, email: [browned@parliament.uk](mailto:browned@parliament.uk)**

**Ruth Kelly—tel. 01204 693351, email: [kellyr@parliament.uk](mailto:kellyr@parliament.uk)**

**Paul Murphy—tel 01495 750078, email: [paulmurphymp@parliament.uk](mailto:paulmurphymp@parliament.uk)**

**PIETY STALL:** Easter cards are on sale and also cards and gifts for Confirmation and First Holy Communion in addition to a large selection of books, rosaries, DVDs, CDs, statues etc. **Now available: "Benedict and Chico", a beautifully illustrated life of Pope Benedict XVI written by his cat.**

**GIFT AID: 1.** To those of you who already donate to us by this method, we are very grateful indeed since the tax we can reclaim is of great help. However, from April 6th, the start of the new tax year, our income from this source will be reduced by 11% due to changes in tax rates. Therefore, if you are able to increase your current donations, it would be very much appreciated. **2.** To those of you who are tax payers (at the basic or higher rate) and who do not yet donate your amount to the collections by this method, may we appeal to you to do so? It costs you no more (and in the case of higher rate tax payers, there is a benefit to you too). Gift Aid forms are to be found at the back door of the church.

**HOLDERS OF APF RED BOXES:** The quarter comes to an end on 31st March, so please have your boxes ready when your collector contacts you. Many thanks.