

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School: web.oratory.bham.sch.uk



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

October 19th 2008: THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



WHAT IS CAESAR'S AND WHAT IS GOD'S?

When Our Lord uttered those memorable words we hear in today's Gospel "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's", He was answering a trick question posed by the Pharisees: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor?" But why exactly was this a trick question? We have to remember that the Holy Land was under Roman occupation. The Romans were, of course, gentiles and pagans. Therefore the Jews considered them not only as foreigners, but as defiling the holy places by their presence. The Romans were not the first foreign power to control the Holy Land; a couple of centuries earlier the Antiochene Emperors, followers of Alexander the Great of Macedon, had ruled the whole Middle East and tried to impose paganism on the Jews, provoking a great and ultimately successful armed revolt under the Maccabees, which we can read about in the final books of the Old Testament. The memory of this revolt, which restored the worship of God in the Temple of Jerusalem, remained very much at the heart of the "zealots" of Our Lord's time, men who actively strove to resist pagan Roman rule both in the name of true religion and of Jewish political freedom. As so often, religion and politics were deeply intertwined for the zealots.

So the question posed by the Pharisees was fraught with danger for Our Lord. If He said "Yes, it is lawful to pay taxes", then He ran the danger of appearing to give support to Roman rule as a collaborator and thus alienating the religious Jews. On the other hand, if He answered: "No; it is against God's Law to pay taxes to the pagans", then He ran the danger of being openly identified as a rebel, and thus liable to arrest and even execution. Of course, we remember that, although untrue, this charge that He was leading a revolt against Caesar was actually made by the Chief Priests against Our Lord before Pilate.

Our Lord's answer is masterful. Not only does He neatly sidestep the trap set for Him, but He also gives us a principle to follow: that we are obliged to respect and assist the proper exercise of civil authority even if this is pagan. It is a teaching that St. Peter and St. Paul will take up and develop in their Letters. In his Letter to the Romans St. Paul tells us: "You must obey all governing authorities. Since all government comes from God, the civil authorities were appointed by God, and so anyone who resists authority is rebelling against God's decision." Of course, this may at first seem to give approval to any authority, however corrupt; but St. Paul makes clear the suppositions on which his argument rests: "The state is there to serve God for your benefit. The authorities are there to serve God: they carry out God's revenge by punishing wrongdoers". So St. Paul leaves room to allow 'conscientious resistance' to anything the civil authorities may enact which is directly contrary to God's Law. St. Paul also turns specifically to Our Lord's point in the Gospel: "This is the reason also why you must pay taxes, since all government officials are God's officers. They serve God by collecting taxes. Pay every government official what he has a right to ask—whether it be direct tax or indirect, fear or honour." (Rom 13:1-7) St. Peter says: "For the sake of the Lord, accept the authority of every social institution" The underlying reason for this is to confound the enemies of the Faith who accuse us of justifying disobedience if the civil authorities do not share our religion: "God wants you to be good citizens, so as to silence what fools are saying in their ignorance." (1 Pet 2: 13-15) Obeying the civil law and paying taxes therefore are a contribution that we should make to the common good of society, as long as they do not infringe God's Law.

TODAY IS MISSION SUNDAY

Over the years this Parish and congregation have been remarkably generous givers to the Pope's Mission Society, the "Association for the Propagation of the Faith" (APF). Well done, but please keep this tradition going! If you have not already got a "Red Box" then please ask for one today. If you already have one, keep filling it up and encouraging others to do the same. By the way, we should especially help our children to learn to put a little into the family's Red Box. We can never be too young to learn to be generous to those in need. Not only should we train our children to give money to the Collection at Mass, (even if we give them the money in the first place), but also to the Missions, thus giving "back to God what is God's" as Our Lord teaches us today. But even if we already do all those things, there is still more that needs doing—When you have filled your box, the Promoters collect it and make sure that it is counted and sent on to the Missions, and that you get an empty box to fill up again. Without these helpers the whole system would grind to a halt. **We badly need more Promoters to collect boxes.** Can you help? It doesn't require a lot of time, just a little extra commitment. Please offer your help to Mrs. Hynes, our Parish Representative. See over the page.

Sunday October 19th: The Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year (Green)

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

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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. Solemn Vespers and Benediction |

TWENTY-NINTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

*Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.
Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass.*

Monday October 20th: Feria. (Green)

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.**

Tuesday October 21st: Feria. (Green).

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction. New members welcome.

Wednesday October 22nd: Feria. (Green)

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.**

Thursday October 23rd: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St John of Capistrano, Priest. (White)

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.**

St John of Capistrano (1385-1456) Educated in law at Perugia University, he was working in the Courts at Naples when the King appointed him Governor of Perugia. A war with a neighbouring town led to his imprisonment and on his release, he joined the Franciscans under the direction of St Bernadine of Siena, who inspired him to preach devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. A gifted orator, he travelled extensively through middle and eastern Europe preaching penance and establishing several communities of Franciscan renewal. At the age of seventy, Pope Callistus III asked him to preach and lead a Crusade against Mohammed II who, having already conquered Constantinople, was leading an army of invading Turks intent on capturing Rome. The battle was won at Belgrade in 1456. St John died later that year. He is the patron saint of jurors.

Friday October 24th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop. (White)

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.**

St Anthony Mary Claret (1807-70) He was the son of a Spanish weaver. He had hoped to become a Jesuit, but poor health prevented this and he became a secular priest. In 1849, he founded the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (*Claretians*). At the request of Queen Isabella, he was appointed Archbishop of Santiago in Cuba, but opposition to his reforms from the liberals within the Church, led to several assassination attempts on his life and so Isabella recalled him to be her chaplain. This enabled him to continue his missionary work and he established specialist educational establishments. In 1869 he participated in the first Vatican Council. He was said to have had the gift of prophecy and to have performed miracles during his life.

Saturday October 25th: Our Lady on Saturday. Memoria. (White); or Feria. (Green)

- **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 Thirtieth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

Sunday October 26th : The Thirtieth Sunday of the Year (Green)

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 Ingeborg Parkes, Kim Potter, Maurice Hynes, Carole Halls, Margaret Casey and Frank McGuinness. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Winifred Hadley; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Sr. Carmela Pia Hayward, Sarah and Terry Feely, Helen Westbrook, Ian Bradley, Jacob Bois and Francis Kilroy.

Winifred Hadley's funeral is on Thursday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: before Mass.

The following are requested to read next weekend, October 25th/26th Thirtieth Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m. Eamon Grant
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections

Twenty-eighth Sunday, 12th October:
Offertory: £1,436
Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £443
Thank you

TODAY

MISSION SUNDAY is today and the second collection will be for the APF. We also ask those of you who do not have Red (APF Missions) Boxes at home to consider taking one. They can be found at the doors of the church. *Please remember to enter your details on the base of the box and on the form to be found with the boxes.* We also ask you to consider being a Red-box Promoter. Please contact Mrs. Hynes on 427 2039

THE HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY BILL is being debated in the Commons on October 22nd. Please take a SPUC leaflet from the church doors giving practical advice on how to act now to make your opposition to this Bill and to the further liberalisation of abortion which it proposes to bring into law.

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, including the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. It now has a large selection of *Advent calendars and wreaths, Christmas cards, gifts, calendars, diaries etc.*

THIS WEEK

Nb. Clocks go back one hour next weekend.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS will be from Monday to Friday this week, at **8 p.m.**, consisting of Rosary and Benediction. Please note the starting time, i.e. Rosary is not recited at the usual time of 7.45 p.m. since it forms part of the Devotions.

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m.

PROLIFE MORNING OF PRAYER & WITNESS takes place on Saturday commencing with the 8 a.m. Mass and Adoration until 8.45 a.m., then walking to the Calthorpe Abortion Clinic on Arthur Road, saying the Rosary on the way. The Procession will return to the Oratory for Benediction at 10.45 a.m.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR LATIN LITURGY holds its AGM at Nottingham Cathedral this Saturday. Programme includes: High Mass at 12 noon; **lunch pre-bookable at a cost of £12**; a talk by Dr Ian Wells on Catholic Nottingham; tea; and sung Vespers at 4.30 p.m. For further details see the Notice Board.

THE FAITH, THE FAMILY, THE FUTURE, a conference of "hope for young people and families focusing on: exploring the beauty of the Church's vision for marriage and the family; passing on the faith to the next generation; celebrating the 40th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*"—will be held at All Saints' Pastoral Centre, London Colney, St. Albans (near the M25) on Saturday and Sunday 25th/26th October. For booking and details see website: www.fatherandfamily.org.uk

or email: faithandfamily2008@yahoo.co.uk

HAGLEY ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC from Barnsley Road to Paradise Circus **next Sunday morning, October 26th** on account of a race. ***It will be possible to approach the Oratory by car from south of the Hagley Road ONLY via the Five Ways Roundabout, Ladywood Middleway, and Monument Road into Plough & Harrow Road.*** Extensive areas of Edgbaston will also be closed to traffic on account of this event. Phone 303 7398 for information.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIENDS OF CARDINAL NEWMAN AGM is on Tuesday 28th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Lower Cloister Hall. Fr Paul will speak on "The present position of the Cause". All are welcome.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2nd and CARDINAL NEWMAN: Attendance at the special Mass at 11 a.m. on November 2nd, the transferred Feast of All Saints, which will be celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Vincent Nichols and at which the Cardinal's remains will be solemnly received, will be by ticket only. Please note that ***at the Archbishop's request*** there will be a special Mass schedule in operation on that Sunday morning: there will be no Masses at 8.30, 9.30 a.m. or 12 noon. Instead, Masses will be at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only. Admission to the 11 a.m. Mass is by ticket (see above). The Masses on Saturday and Sunday evening will be at the usual times. **There will be a low Mass at 12.15 p.m. in the Primary School, and a low Mass in Latin (1962 rite) at 4.30 p.m. in Church.**

NOTICES

FOURTH NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR LIFE. On Tuesday 28th October please pray and fast for the defeat of all attempts in parliament to liberalise the abortion laws. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For information on the day of Prayer and Fasting contact; The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740. For information on lobbying your MP about the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill contact SPUC at www.spuc.org.uk Tel 020 7091 7091. **Fasting** : Fast from all food except bread and water for the day, or fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, TV. Fast from whatever you can given your state of health etc, but make sure it is something that involves a sacrifice to yourself. **Prayer** : We are asking people to say a Rosary (or an extra Rosary if you say it daily already). You could also offer an extra effort such as going to Mass (or an extra Mass) on the day, or going to Adoration.