

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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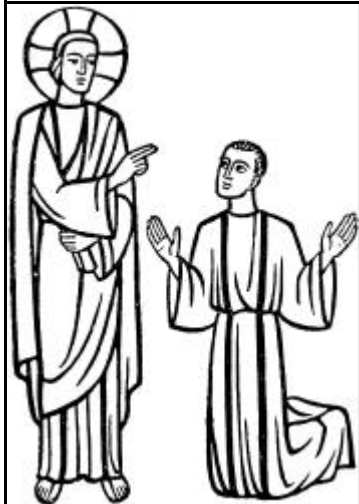
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August 22nd 2010: THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ENTER BY THE NARROW GATE

In today's Gospel Our Lord is asked the question, "Lord, will many be saved?" It is one of several questions that are frequently asked about "being saved", or "salvation". What does it mean to be "saved"? Is it necessary to be saved or is it only something optional? What are we saved from? Some people even ask whether, if it is true that God is merciful, it can be possible that NOT all people will be saved, so making today's question redundant. "Of course everyone is saved", they say. Yet that is clearly not what Our Lord says, either today or elsewhere.

Still, Our Lord does not enter into a debate with his questioner. He does not even answer his question directly. It is as though He says, "If **you** wish to be saved, then this is what you must do: strive to enter by the narrow gate." So being saved can be described as entering into some place other than where we are. Maybe this place is beyond the limits of this life, i.e. what happens to us beyond death. Maybe Our Lord is saying that death is like a door or a gate. We can see it from this side, but we can't see what lies beyond it. Yet even this cannot be quite right, for death is something which we all have to reach and pass through, willy-nilly; but what Our Lord goes on to say shows that this cannot simply be death which none of us can avoid anyway, but something else which we can enter as we will. For Our Lord goes on to say: "strive to enter by the narrow gate since many will try to enter and will not succeed."

Then we can remember that Our Lord often tells parables, stories with a spiritual meaning, relating to "being ready", to not being caught out unprepared. He does so in today's Gospel, warning us against finding ourselves locked out of the house when the Master is in bed and refusing to get up or even to recognise us. It is the same theme that we hear in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins (or bridesmaids), who are waiting for the bridegroom to arrive so that they can escort him, but some are unprepared and cannot get ready in time when the bridegroom arrives suddenly and unexpectedly, leaving them no time to prepare themselves, so that they are left out in the cold and dark. In this sense, Our Lord means that we have to be prepared to enter by the narrow gate since it is not something we come to automatically, as death is. Furthermore, this narrow gate is something he says we must **strive** to enter by. It is clear then that it is something that not all will succeed in entering by, but will want to when it is too late to be able to do so. The means of entering this narrow gate must be striven for, and well in advance of reaching it. This is what the spiritual life is about—and using our Lord's special gifts of grace and prayer and charity to practice doing the "difficult" things as we see them in this life, the things we normally shy away from, but which are essential for being saved from sin and from death, so as to enter into eternal life.

THE COLLECTION

Remember how Our Lord saw a poor widow put a tiny coin in the temple collecting box because she could afford no more, and told the Apostles that her contribution was more valuable than all the other rich persons' bigger sums? We mustn't use that story as an excuse not to give what we can genuinely afford. Take last week's collection for an example. There were £15 in fivepence pieces, meaning some 300 tiniest silver coins were put in the bags, and no less than £8 in bronze, which accounts for between 400 and 800 one penny and twopenny coins. Even bearing in mind the occasional widow's mite and, thank God, plenty of children, (and it is good to encourage your children to put even small amounts in the collection each week to encourage them to understand the importance of giving to the Church—telling them what the money is for), still it means that an awful lot of adults are only putting terribly small change into the collection. If something like one thousand coins in the collection add up to only £23, we should be asking ourselves the question: *how much am I putting in to support the work of the Church, and especially when there is such a great expense incurred by the Oratory in preparation for the Pope's visit?*

As you know, the collection is not "pocket money" for the clergy—it is a work of our Christian stewardship supporting the work of the local and universal Church, maintaining it and those who run it. St. Paul reminds us that it is a Christian duty to give to it. Our giving will be something on which we will be judged. It is truly a way of preparing to "enter by the narrow gate." The more we give now, the more will be our reward and also the greater can be the remission of our sins thereby. When we stand one day before God's Judgement Seat we may well be glad to present in our defence that we were generous to the collection. So please examine your consciences.

Sunday August 22nd: The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

- 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. **Low Mass**
- 7.30 p.m. **Vespers and Benediction**

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 1 in the Divine Office

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary 7.45 p.m. (for Saturdays: see over)

Holy Hour: Each Weekday from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Benediction on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass.

Monday 23rd August: St John Wall, Priest and Martyr. Feast. (Red).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m.**

St John Wall (1619-79) Born in Lancashire of a 'gentleman's' family, he joined the Franciscans. At 32, he was ordained at Douay and returned to Worcester where he worked for twenty-five years, based at Harvington Hall. However, he was arrested in the wake of the "Titus Oates" plot, falsely concocted to discredit Catholics. In prison, Fr John wrote: "We all ought to follow the narrow way, though there may be many difficulties in it. It is an easy thing to run the blind way of liberty, but God deliver us from all broad, sweet ways." He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Worcester.

Tuesday 24th August: St Bartholomew, Apostle. Feast. (Red)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. –9 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

St Bartholomew One of the Twelve, he is also called Nathaniel in St John's Gospel. He is thought to have preached in Armenia and N.W. India and to have been martyred at Darband on the Caspian Sea, by being flayed alive.

Wednesday 25th August: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of St Louis of France, King. (White); or of St Joseph Calasanz, Priest. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. –9 a.m.**

St Louis (1214-70) personified the highest ideals of a Catholic King. A father of eleven and a Franciscan Tertiary, he cared for lepers. He insisted on justice for all regardless of their social position, and he was a man of peace, though he led two Crusades.

St Joseph Calasanz (1557-1648) A Spanish priest who worked in Rome to bring education to the poor by opening free schools, and founding the *Piarists*, the first order dedicated to the education of children. Further schools were established in other parts of Europe, though he suffered greatly due to false accusations by a jealous subordinate.

Thursday 26th August: Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest. Feast. (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

Blessed Dominic Barberi (d.1849) From Viterbo in Italy, he entered the Passionists and was sent to England in 1841 to head the Passionist English Mission. His preaching and example inspired many, most notably Cardinal Newman, his most distinguished convert

Friday 27th August: St Monica. Memoria. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. –9 a.m.**

St Monica (d.387) Mother of St Augustine (below), her patience and persistence in prayer brought about the conversion of her pagan husband and dissolute son.

Saturday 28th August: St Augustine, Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

- **Low Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **Low Mass at 11 a.m.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Twenty-second Sunday of the Year) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Augustine of Hippo (354-430) Having lived a dissolute life, he was baptised at 33. Four years later he was ordained and soon after, appointed Bishop of Hippo. He devoted his extraordinary intellectual gifts in defence of the Church's teachings, and as one of the greatest theologians, he is regarded as the most influential of the Doctors of the Church. His strict monastic rule has been adopted by more than 150 religious orders.

August 29th: the Twenty-second 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. During August: Low Mass**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Ben Zissman, John Keane, Brenda Molloy, Elizabeth Priday, John Carter, Jaque-line Packham, Josephine Spooner, Nick Usher-Somers, Ute Bowyer, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Kevan Bleach, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Barbara Jarvis.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Maria Cook;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Frank Howe, Marion Cole and John Dainty

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, August 28th/29th The Twenty-first Sunday

Saturday 5.45 p.m: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections last week:

The Assumption: 15th August, 2010

Offertory: £1,525

Second: Cardinal Newman's Cause: £760

Separate Donations: Cardinal Newman's shrine:
£4,729

(Target £45,000: Raised so far: £38,800)

Very many thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION will be for the continuing expenses of the preparation of Cardinal Newman's shrine.

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.

The ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY at GRACE DIEU MANOR, Leicester, to pray for World Peace and for Young People, takes place today. Mass is at 3 p.m. there will be a Procession and crowning of our Lady's Statue, Exposition, blessing of the sick and will conclude with Benediction.

St. FRANCIS'S CHURCH, HANDSWORTH is hosting the Revd Fr Professor Emmanuel Edeh, founder and Spiritual Director of the Pilgrimage Centre of Eucharistic Adoration and of the Catholic Prayer Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Elele, for Mass and a get-together this afternoon at 3.30 p.m.

THIS WEEK

There will be a HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning to pray for the success of Cardinal Newman's beatification and the Pope's visit.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will take place on Wednesday starting at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 5 p.m. (There will be no Mass beforehand, but there is, of course, Mass in church at 5.45 p.m. as usual).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF 'THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS' (Cardinal Newman's great work, set to music by Edward Elgar) **on the eve of the Beatification, 18th September**, will take place at the Town Hall at 5.30 p.m. It will be performed on period instruments by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment with Ex Cathedra. Tickets are available from the Town Hall Box Office 0121 780 3333 (and early booking is recommended). Please see the poster for full details.

'NEWMAN and BIRMINGHAM' - a lecture which will be given by Professor Sheridan Gilley, author of *Newman and His Age*, to mark the Beatification of Cardinal Newman. It takes place on Monday 13 September at 6 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham. The event is free but you must register your attendance with Aidan Thompson at a.p.thompson@bham.ac.uk, or 0121 414 3602.

THE POPE'S VISIT: When our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, comes to the Oratory on 19th September, straight after the beatification, he will be the first pilgrim to pray in the new shrine that will be in St Philip's Chapel. This is a tremendous honour, not only for Cardinal Newman, but also for our parish and community. For obvious reasons the visit will be very short **and it will be completely private.**

THE NEW SHRINE: We are nearly there, thanks to your generosity, but we still need another £7,000 to reach our target. We would like to say a very special thank you to all of you who have contributed so far towards setting up Blessed John Henry Newman's shrine and to fund the redecoration of St Philip's Chapel, making it ready to receive the relics of Blessed John Henry. For all donations, we would strongly urge those of you who are taxpayers to complete a Gift Aid form (to be found at the doors of the church) as we can increase your donation by claiming money back from Revenue & Customs.

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS are being sought to marshall people in the streets around the Oratory when the Pope visits. If you are not going to the Beatification ceremony at Cofton Park and if you are fit and able and would like to volunteer please email D Lloyd: dmlloyd@tiscali.co.uk or telephone Jim McManus on 07826 102 092. (Training will be given)