

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.

June 7th 2009: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



OUR GOD WHO IS LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE

Now that Eastertide is complete with the celebration last Sunday of Coming of the Holy Spirit, the Church's year continues in a very different vein for the next six months of so-called "Ordinary Time", characterised by the liturgical colour green. The past six months has been taken up with the celebrations of Our Saviour's history: first, the Incarnation (centred on Christmas) and secondly the Redemption (centred on Easter).

During the time between now and next Advent the feasts that we will celebrate are principally those of the Saints. But there are some notable feasts of Our Lord still to come. These feasts, beginning with today's, all celebrate and honour some mystery of our Faith in God and in Our Lord which we have already celebrated in the events of His life, death and resurrection, but to which we now return in Ordinary Time to ponder at greater leisure.

First of all, immediately after Pentecost we celebrate the central mystery of our faith: the One, Almighty God in three equal and undivided, yet distinct Persons. We call God the "Holy Trinity" to express this truth which Our Lord taught us through His Apostles, that "*He and the Father are One* (and the same God)", and that He sends the Holy Spirit upon His Church to make Him and the Father known. Since it is only possible for God Himself to make God known, therefore the Spirit, too, is One with the Father and the Son.

Son and Spirit together make known to us, as far as is possible for our limited minds, the wonderful Mystery of God as He is in Himself: Light, Life and Love. Yet even in the Old Testament there were signs of the truth that

would eventually be revealed to the Church by the Son and the Spirit. For instance, in the wonderful icon above, we see Abraham's three mysterious guests at the Oak of Mamre (Genesis 18:1-15). In this passage, the guests, who arrive mysteriously, sometimes speak as One person, and sometimes as three individuals. Abraham, too, addresses them sometimes as One and sometimes as Three. They also prophesy that Abraham will have a son, Isaac, who will be the fulfilment of God's promises to him that he will be the "father of a great nation", which is why we call Abraham "our father in faith" in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

We are familiar with the imagery showing an elderly Father, a young Son, and a Dove representing the Spirit, which draws attention to the *differences* between the three persons of God. Yet in the famous Russian icon above we see a less familiar portrayal of the Trinity in which the three persons are, though only apparently, *indistinguishable* to us.

THE LIVING BREAD

Following Pentecost, the second great Feast of Faith, so to speak, is *Corpus Christi*, in which we celebrate the institution of the Blessed Sacrament as the enduring, yet mysterious, bodily presence of Christ on our altars, in our tabernacles and in Holy Communion. This feast was first celebrated on a *Thursday* in order to revisit more joyfully the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. But why was a Thursday chosen which is so long after Holy Week? It was because this coming Thursday is the first free Thursday after the completion of Eastertide by the week of Pentecost. The Church waits until Ordinary Time, after Eastertide is over before turning anew to these mysteries to celebrate them joyfully.

Nowadays we celebrate *Corpus Christi* on the first free Sunday, or "Lord's Day", after Eastertide. But the option remains of anticipating the feast on the original Thursday this week—which will also help us to prepare for the Solemnity on Sunday, when our schoolchildren will receive their first Holy Communion, and when we will celebrate our annual outdoor Procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the nearby streets. Please join us in this act of devotion next Sunday! There will also be a High Mass in the Extraordinary Form on Thursday evening at 8 p.m. followed by an indoor Procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Again, please come in order to show and deepen your devotion to our Eucharistic Lord!

Sunday June 7th: Trinity Sunday (*White*)

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| • 8.30 a.m. <i>Low Mass</i> | • 12.00 p.m. (<i>Families with young children</i>) |
| • 9.30 a.m. <i>Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal</i> | • 5.30 p.m. <i>Sung Congregational Mass</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>Solemn High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Solemn Vespers and Benediction</i> |

TENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 2

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Tuesday and Friday at 8 p.m. Exposition on Saturday: 8.30–10.45 a.m.

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

Monday 8th June: Feria. (Green).

- **Blessing with St. Philip's relic at 8 p.m..**

Tuesday 9th June: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of St Ephraem, Deacon. (White); or of St Columba, Abbot. (White)

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

St Ephraem (303-73) A deacon in Edessa (Iraq), he was famed for his wonderful writings and in particular he used his talents to compose hymns for popular use to combat various heresies. He is regarded as a great teacher of the Syrian Church.

St Columba (c. 521-97) Founder of several monasteries in Ireland, he moved to Iona and founded the famous monastery, destined to play a very important part in the spread of Christianity in Scotland and England. As many were converted, more monasteries were opened and the Catholic Faith spread rapidly.

Wednesday 10th June: Feria. (Green)

Thursday 11th June: St Barnabas, Apostle. (Red) Corpus Christi Thursday

- **Solemn High Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form (1962 Missal) at 8 p.m.**

St Barnabas A Cypriot Jew, he was an Apostle but not one of the twelve. It was he who introduced Saul (St Paul) to the other Apostles and also accompanied him to Cyprus. Barnabas is esteemed the Founder of the Church in Cyprus and is thought to have been martyred at Salamis.

Friday 12th June: Feria. (Green).

- **Benediction in honour of the Sacred Heart at 8 p.m.**

Saturday, June 13th: St Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church. (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 & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Corpus Christi) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Anthony of Padua (1195-1231) He was born in Lisbon of a noble Portuguese family but gave up his wealthy lifestyle and embraced poverty as a Franciscan friar. Wishing to be a missionary, he was sent to Morocco to work amongst the Moslems but was forced to return to Europe due to poor health, and settled in Italy. It was soon discovered that he had a remarkable knowledge of the Bible and an outstanding ability as a preacher. Although he is frequently depicted in art as a rather 'soft' looking young man, he was strong, merciless and fearless against lax clergy and oppressors of the defenceless, and was known in his lifetime as "the Hammer of the heretics". Many of his works survive and he is a Doctor of the Church. He was canonised only a year after his death.

June 14th: The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ "Corpus Christi" (White)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin Low Mass 1962 Missal**
- **10.30 a.m. Latin High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (First Holy Communion Mass)**
- **4.00 p.m. Corpus Christi Procession**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Sr Francis Clare, Jean Smith, Peter Young, Doris Wollaston, Connie Hayward, David Dearn, Pat Healey, May Poppins, Katie Hayward, John Rose, Carole Halls, Marie-Therese Jones, John McCann, Patrick Walshe and Barry Long. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Kim Knight and Peggy Harris; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Paul Eaglesim, Fr Francis Morgan and Fr Denis Shiel, all of this Oratory, Jeremiah Kelly, Jane & Patsy Kearney, Jack Callaghan and Mary Biggs.

Mary Cunliffe's funeral will be on Friday at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Convent, Queen's Park Rd, Harborne. Reception of remains: Thursday at 5 p.m.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, June 12th/13th, Corpus Christi:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

Pentecost : 31st May, 2009

Offertory: £1,554

Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £455
Thank you

TODAY

EASTER DUTIES: The time for fulfilling Easter Duties, that is Confession and Holy Communion, ends today, Trinity Sunday.

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for the costs of the Cause for Cardinal Newman's Beatification.

PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, including Saturday evening & has a **wide selection of 1st Communion gifts & cards**

LIFE PETITION AGAINST PROPOSED TV ADVERTS FOR ABORTION Many of you have signed the petition, but we urge those of you have not done so to do so today.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday, beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m., followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.45 p.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI Thursday June 11th. There will be a High Mass in the Extraordinary Form, and indoor Procession at 8 p.m.

BENEDICTION: In addition to Benediction as usual on Tuesday evening, during June there will also be Benediction on Fridays in honour of the Sacred Heart. (On Friday, the 19th, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, there will be High Mass at 8 p.m., but Benediction will form part of the Vigil—details below.)

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION COFFEE MORNING will take place on Saturday after the 11 a.m. Mass. Please give it your support.

The APF ANNUAL REUNION MASS is on Saturday at 3.00 p.m. at St Peter's Church, Bromsgrove. All APF members, their families and friends are invited. Refreshments will be served after Mass & for catering purposes, please contact Monica Hynes (427 2039) no later than Monday evening. Unfortunately, there will not be a mini-bus from here this year but a W M Travel bus stops outside the church.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY is next week, June 14th, when:

- 1) The children of Year 3 in the Oratory Primary School will receive their First Holy Communion at the 12 noon Mass.
- 2) The annual outdoor Blessed Sacrament Procession will take place at 4 p.m. Please make a special note in your diaries and encourage your friends and families to come and join in this act of love and homage to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Roses, rose petals which should be delivered no later than 5 p.m on Saturday or offerings to buy roses for the Procession would be much appreciated.

PARISH COUNCIL meets 15th June at 8 p.m.

VIGIL OF REPARATION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS & THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY will be held here on the night of 19th/20th June. High Mass will be at 8 p.m. on Friday (the Feast of the Sacred Heart) and the Vigil will be held in the Cloister Chapel until 3 a.m. There will be Exposition and prayers with Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at 2.30 a.m.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: The next meeting will be on Tuesday June 16th (12—2 p.m.) to read "A Mother's Tale" by Victoria Gillick. All women, including new members, are welcome. Please contact Jackie Parkes: 688 4154 rosary@blueyonder.co.uk

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL continues the celebrations of its 50th anniversary with 'Families in the Field' on Saturday 20th June. All who have, or have had, any connection with the school are invited with their families to attend between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to enjoy entertainment and tour the school. Please take a picnic. An open-air Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m.

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: 1st—2nd August: Anne Roebuck is now taking bookings. Please call: 454 0130