

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.



November 16th 2008: THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!

What is the best thing anyone has ever said to you? Maybe you have a particularly strong memory of some word of appreciation or praise from a person whom you really admired and loved, and whose good opinion you longed to have. Maybe it was a teacher at school who was very searching, yet also very fair, and who was known never to give praise that was undeserved. Maybe it was an older friend to whom you looked up when you were young, after you had done something demanding and difficult for the first time. Perhaps it was your employer after an especially difficult assignment you had been asked to do. Yet nothing that we may yet have experienced in this life can possibly measure up to the words Our Lord addresses to His good servants in today's parable of the Talents: "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*" How we should long to hear those words addressed to us by our Saviour!

Sometimes Our Lord speaks about sheep, or seeds, or crops, or vines. The parable of the Talents is one of Our Lord's stories based on the world of money. We may not easily understand how it is fair that some people seem to have more "talents" than others. So Our Lord tells us a story in terms of money that makes it easier for us to grasp. The strange thing is that because of this parable the word "talent" has changed its meaning in our language. A "talent" was originally (and still is in this Gospel parable) a huge sum of money. Nowadays, we use the word "talent" to mean a skill or ability that God has given us. We use the word, in actual fact, in exactly the way that Our Lord was using the sum of money as a metaphor: an idea from one kind of business or experience applied to a different, but parallel, one. That is, of course, exactly what Our Lord's parables always are: *Earthly stories with a heavenly meaning*. For us, a "talent" is now exactly what Our Lord intended us to understand by the image of the different sums of money entrusted to the different servants.

This parable reminds us that Our Lord does not expect everyone to produce *exactly* the same return on God's gifts, because God never gives *exactly* the same gifts to any two persons. Moreover, "Talents" are not just to be interpreted as gifts. No two persons are ever put in exactly the same position, or given absolutely identical lives or responsibilities. Every human being who has ever lived is unique. This fact is in itself a remarkable tribute to God's inexhaustible inventiveness. Even identical twins are still two individuals, however much they may share; and it is as *individuals* that they will be judged—just like all the rest of the human race.

To have won Our Lord's approval for the fruit of our life's work is surely the greatest joy we can look forward to on leaving this life—a joy to be surpassed only by that of the everlasting sight of His glory in the company of all the saints. Hence, after these wonderful words: "*Well done, good and faithful servant*", Our Lord will say to those who have done His will these yet more thrilling words: "*Enter into the joy of your Lord!*" You know how it is that after the Christmas festivities are over in the world at large, and January is still cold, dark and wet, advertisers love to whet our appetites for summer with scenes of hot tropical beaches and blue seas. For us, if life seems excessively arduous, and without any real purpose or hope of reward, we need to think about the words Our Lord says to the servants who have produced a good income on their talents: "*Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord!*" May God grant that on the day we leave this life, we all hear those same words addressed to ourselves!

Sunday November 16th: The Thirty-third Sunday of the Year (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. **Sung Congregational Mass**
- 7.30 p.m. **Vespers and Benediction**

THIRTY THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. (Monday also at 7.30 p.m. this week)

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. and Stations of the Cross on Fridays in November for the Holy Souls

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

Monday November 17th: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of **St Elizabeth of Hungary.** (White); or of **St Hilda, Abbess.** (White); or of **St Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop.** (White)

- **Sung (Tridentine) Requiem for Cardinal Pole at 7.30 p.m. (See the Notices)**

St Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231) Born in Germany she married the King of Hungary. Despite her position at Court, she led an austere and holy life and following her husband's death she became a Franciscan tertiary, devoting herself to the care of the sick at the hospital she had built.

St Hilda (614-680) was Abbess of Whitby where she presided over a community of monks and nuns of great culture and learning. She hosted the famous "Synod of Whitby" at which the Anglo-Saxon Church definitively adopted the Roman liturgy and customs.

St Hugh of Lincoln was a French Carthusian monk who, at the request of King Henry II, became Abbot of a new foundation in Somerset. He was generous and just and on account of his wisdom he was appointed Bishop of Lincoln. There he defended the poor and also the Jewish community of Lincoln, and restored order to his large and neglected diocese.

Tuesday November 18th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of *The Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul.* (White).

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

The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter & Paul commemorates the two separate basilicas built in Rome over the ancient burial places of the two great Apostles. Peter was buried on the Vatican Hill where he died a martyr's death under the Emperor Nero, and his grave nearby was secretly and lovingly revered for generations until the freedom of the Church under the Emperor Constantine in 312. A.D. That grave still forms the focal point of the basilica built over it. The present day papal altar stands directly over it.

St. Paul's grave similarly forms the centre of the enormous basilica dedicated to him by Constantine, which is to be found on the outskirts of Rome near the point where he was executed, also in the reign of the Emperor Nero.

Wednesday November 19th: Feria. (Green)

Thursday November 20th: Feria. (Green)

Friday November 21st: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Memoria. (White)

- **Stations of the Cross for the Holy Souls at 8 p.m.**

The Presentation of Our Lady although not recorded in Scripture, has a long history in the Church's devotion, especially in the East. It commemorates the welcoming of the infant Virgin Mary into God's Temple in Jerusalem as part of her preparation for becoming the living "Temple of the Lord" in the Incarnation of the Son of God as her own Son, Jesus.

Saturday November 22nd: St Cecilia, Virgin Martyr. Memoria. (Red)

- **Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **Requiem Mass at 11 a.m. for the Walsingham Association**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 10.45**
- **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 Thirty-fourth Sunday, at 5.45 p.m.**

St Cecilia (2nd or 3rd century) is one of the most famous of the early Roman martyrs, yet most of what is recorded about her is legend. She certainly belonged to the noble family of the Caecilii who lived in a mansion in the part of ancient Rome which lies "over the Tiber" (Trastevere). As was frequently the case in the early Church, her large house became a recognised Mass centre for the Christians, and Cecilia herself was undoubtedly martyred. Her remains were for years located in the catacombs of St. Callisto, but they were eventually removed to beneath the High Altar of the basilica built over her home in Trastevere, where they can still be venerated. She is the much-loved patron saint of musicians and her name is in the list of female martyr-saints in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

Sunday November 23rd: The Thirty-fourth 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 Fr Cownley, Andrew Reddy, Kathleen Devere, Raymond Colquhoun, Leah Lansbury, Olive d'Silva, Bridget Shields, Marie-Therese Jones, 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:** Alard Devlin; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Nance Dunn, Elizabeth Snape, Patrick Wilkie and William Donaghue.

Alard Devlin's funeral is at 12.45 p.m. on Friday. Reception of remains: before the Mass

The following are requested to read next weekend, November 22nd/23rd The Thirty-fourth Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Morag Marinoni
Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Denis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

Remembrance Sunday, 9th November:
Offertory: £1,442
Second: Johnson Fund: £783
Thank you

TODAY

The SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND is for the DDF

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses. It has a large selection of *Advent calendars and wreaths, Christmas cards, gifts, calendars, diaries etc. including goods being sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need.*, in addition to the usual stock and a wide selection of books.

The ORATORY CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW: Very many thanks to the person who contributed the £500 First Prize! **Books of tickets are now available at the doors of the church.** Please take and sell as many as you can. (Tickets: £1 per book or 20p each).

THIS WEEK

A SUNG REQUIEM IN THE OLD RITE: will take place on Monday at 7.30 p.m. to mark the 450th anniversary of the death of Cardinal Reginald Pole, the last Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury.

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

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

The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB resumes its study of St Gianna Molla on Friday, November 21st, 12—2 p.m. Please telephone 688 4154 or 07525 161 806 or email: rosary@blueyonder.co.uk for details.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ORATORY PATRICIANS meet on Sunday, 23rd November at 3.15 p.m. in the Oratory House. The subject will be: "The Church and Politics Today". All are welcome.

MARYVALE ADVENT RETREAT Saturday 29th November from 10.30-4.40 p.m. will be led by Fr John Redford. The day will include talks, Adoration and Mass. Cost for the day: £9. To book, please telephone 360 8118, or 325 2414, or email: bridgettines@maryvale.ac.uk

YEAR OF ST PAUL PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA: Organised by Moseley Travel: 7th—14th February 2009 to mark the Feast of St Paul's arrival on the island, which is celebrated on February 10th. Travelling from

Birmingham, the total cost is £395, including halfboard in a 4* hotel in Qawra. If anyone is interested in this pilgrimage, please contact Fr Paul

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS STAMPS: This Christmas the Post Office are to issue both secular stamps and Religious stamps; but just like last year, you have to stipulate if you want Religious stamps. Each Post Office has been asked to send in to HQ the totals for each (possibly to say that there is no demand for the latter!) So please ask for Religious stamps in order to keep Our Lord at the centre of the event.

EXAM INVIGILATORS: St. Paul's School for Girls, Vernon Road, is seeking to increase its team of Exam Invigilators, who supervise the administration of internal and external examinations. Rate of pay: £7.96 per hour. Invigilators will need to be CRB checked, have effective communication skills, pay attention to detail and be very flexible and reliable. Please telephone 0121 454 0895 for more details.

READERS AT MASS NEEDED: *We are always looking for more readers at all Sunday Masses, but in particular there is only one reader on the rota for the 12.00 p.m. Sunday Mass Please jot down your name, address or email, and telephone number and give to one of the Fathers, or to the Oratory House addressed to Fr Guy, if you are willing to volunteer to read at this Mass, or any of the other Masses. Many thanks.*

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLICS IN EDUCATION is a new initiative to support Catholic teachers, governors and all Catholics working in education whether in private, state schools or colleges. The next meeting on 20th November 2008 at Pastoral Centre, St Joseph's, New Malden 7.30pm Paul Stubbings, Deputy Headteacher of The Cardinal Vaughan School will speak on "Promoting Catholic Values in Education". The talk will be followed by an open forum discussion with a panel of local educationalists. The meeting is open, in particular, to staff and governors from Catholic schools as well as Catholics working in non Catholic schools.