

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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November 7th 2010: THE THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NO MARRIAGE IN HEAVEN?

Today's Gospel passage introduces us to a small, but influential, group of Jews from our Lord's time, of whom we hear much less in the Gospels than we do of their main opponents, the Pharisees. This other group was known as the "Sadducees", named after Zadok (or Sadoc) the Priest who anointed King Solomon. They were dominated by the upper classes of the Jewish priesthood and tended to be more accommodating towards the political authority of the Romans than were the Pharisees, which did not make them always popular with the ordinary folk. The Sadducees also had some very important differences in religious belief from those of the Pharisees; for instance, they did not believe in angels, and most significantly for today's Gospel, they did not believe in the resurrection of the body at the end of time.

Since they were opposed to the Pharisees, whom Our Lord so frequently and pungently criticised, you might expect that they would have been Our Lord's allies. Yet clearly, if they did not believe in the

resurrection, they were not only opposed to the Pharisees' faith, but also to Our Lord's. After all, Our Lord and the Pharisees, for all their great differences, did believe alike in the Resurrection of the body on the last day.

Therefore, the Sadducees think that they have found the perfect conundrum with which to outsmart Our Lord. They have seen how He has outwitted the Pharisees, and now they want to turn the tables against Him themselves. What better way of showing how ridiculous the idea of the bodily resurrection than the story they invent! In Jewish law, if a married man died childless, his widow was to be married off to his brother so that he could "beget children in his dead brother's name". So, the Sadducees surmise, what if a woman is married to a man who dies childless, then marries his brother, who also dies childless, and so on—marrying seven brothers in all...to which of them will she be married if there is a resurrection of the body? Doesn't this prove that there can't be such a thing as the resurrection after all?

Our Lord's answer is very interesting. He in no way accepts the Sadducees' argument as proof against the resurrection. He states firmly that *"The sons of this age (i.e. this earthly life) marry and are given in marriage; but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age (i.e. heaven) and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."* This teaching is of great significance. It tells us that marriage is a state of union in this life only and that married couples *here* will no longer be "married" in heaven!

Now before all loving married couples panic or protest, we need to recognise that Our Lord does not mean that we are no longer united with our loved ones. He means that the nature of the union between all the Blessed in heaven will surpass even the greatest joys that marriage can bring. Marriage, after all, is a state of life intended to bring new life into the world through the love of a husband and a wife. (Incidentally, that's also why marriage can only be between a man and a woman—since only in such a union can children be begotten.)

Therefore there will be no new families in heaven—only the one great family of all the human race redeemed in Christ. This is difficult for us to understand now, of course, but if we are judged worthy of the resurrection we will not be distant from all those we love in this life, but closer than ever to them and all the saints.

Sunday November 7th: The Thirty-second 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. *Sung Congregational English Mass*
- 6.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 4 in the Divine Office

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary after the 12.45 & 5.45 p.m. Masses.

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

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

(For Saturday and Sunday: see over)

Monday 8th November: Feria (Green) Optional memoria of Bl George Napier, Priest & Martyr. (Red)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Blessing with St Philip's relic at c. 6.20 p.m.**

Bl George Napier (d. 1610) Born and educated at Oxford, he was imprisoned as a Catholic for nine years before abandoning his faith. However, he repented and became a priest at Douay, and returned to England working with great success before being caught. At the time of his arrest he was carrying the Blessed Sacrament which miraculously remained undiscovered by his captors.

Tuesday 9th November: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica This Basilica in Rome, dedicated to our Saviour and Sts John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, is the Cathedral of Rome (i.e. not St Peter's). The inscription on the façade tells us that this is the "Mother and head of all the churches in the City (of Rome) and the World". This is a feast of Our Lord, whose body, the Church, is symbolised by the great buildings we call churches.

Wednesday 10th November: St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**

St Leo the Great (d.461) He was elected Pope in 440, a critical time for the Church. He profoundly influenced the course of the Church with his famous declaration on Our Lord's two natures, His divinity and manhood united inseparably, but unmixed, in His one Divine Person. At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, the Bishops declared that "St Peter has spoken through Leo". He also personally confronted Attila the Hun, intent on destroying Rome, persuading him not to invade the City.

Thursday 11th November: St Martin of Tours, Bishop. Memorial (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**

St Martin of Tours (c.316-397) Born in Pannonia (Roman Hungary), he followed in his father's footsteps and joined the cavalry. As a young officer he met a poor beggar and gave him half his cloak and later, seeing Our Lord wearing it in a vision, he sought baptism. Under the influence of St Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, he founded a community of monks. In 372, he was appointed Bishop of Tours discharging his duties while remaining a monk.

Friday 12th November: St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr. Memoria. (Red)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Stations of the Cross for the Faithful Departed after the 5.45 Mass**

St Josaphat (1584-1623) A Pole, he became a monk in the Byzantine (Greek) rite. He devoted his time to reuniting Greek and Ukrainian Christians with the Holy See, but was murdered by those who opposed union of Rome and Orthodox Christians under the Pope.

Saturday 13th November: Our Lady on Saturday (White); or Feria. (Green).

- **Low Masses: at 8 a.m., and in Latin (EF) at 9.30 a.m. in the Shrine.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—concluding with Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Pilgrim Mass at 11 a.m. followed by prayers in Bl John Henry's Shrine.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Thirty third Sunday of Ordinary Time) at 5.30 p.m.**

November 14th: The Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green) Remembrance Sunday

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Low Latin Mass (1962 missal)**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn Requiem for those killed in War**
- **12.00 noon Family Mass**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational English Mass**
- **6.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction (please note new time)**

Please pray for the sick: David Jenkins, Karen Ratchford, Yvonne Pilsbury, Louise Pilsbury, Jacqueline Griffiths, James Foynes, Nick Usher-Somers, Tony Colquhoun, Miles Drew and Brenda Molloy.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Evelyn Raitt and Estelle Hindley; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr John Cook of this Oratory, Laura Williams, Elizabeth Harnick, Elsie Chambers, Peter Lascelles, Tommy Logan, Barry Power and Charles Henry Nicholls.

Pat Walshe's funeral is on Monday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, November 13th/14th 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday 5.30 p.m: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Peter Bateman
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections last week:

Solemnity of All Saints: 31st October, 2010
Offertory: £1,665
Second Collection: Music Fund.: £705
Organ (for shrine) Fund £75
Many thanks

TODAY

The SECOND COLLECTION will be for the Johnson Fund which takes care of sick and retired Diocesan Priests.

THE PIETY STALL is now open on Saturdays and after all Sunday morning Masses and on Sunday afternoons. However, in the run-up to Christmas, we are again open after the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses. Medals, rosaries and other commemorative items of the beatification of Blessed John Henry Newman are on sale, together with books about him, and of his own writings and also, the Official Record of the Pope's State Visit. **Christmas cards (including those sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need), Nativity sets, Advent Calendars, calendars, diaries and other Christmas items are on sale.**

THIS WEEK

There will be a HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each day this week, and Adoration from 8.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. on Saturday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are prayed for the Faithful Departed on Fridays in November after the 5.45 Mass.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ORATORY PATRICIANS' DISCUSSION GROUP meets next Sunday, 14th, at 3.15 p.m. in the Oratory House. The topic is "Same-sex Attraction." All welcome.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES organised by the Knights of Malta, Hospitalier Limited, takes place from Friday April 29th to Friday May 6th 2011. Each year they take sick, disabled and aged pilgrims, providing nursing and medical care. Invitations are invited from those categories. The accommodation is in the Accueil Notre Dame, and pilgrims are asked to make a contribution of £260 towards the cost of £550, but this can be reduced in cases of need. Anything over £260 would be gratefully received to help those who can afford very little. For booking form etc please contact Adrian de Redman: 0121 608 5496

NOTICES

OPENING TIMES OF BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN'S SHRINE: Please note that the shrine is open when the church is open. On Saturdays and Sundays, this will be all day. During the week, at present, the church will be open at usual times. (Generally, half to three-quarters of an hour before and after services.)

We are also still recruiting volunteers to help us keep the church and shrine open to visitors. Donations and offers of voluntary help may be made at any time to Fr Richard by writing to him at the Oratory House or by emailing him: rd@oxorat.org

SERVICES: Volunteers are still wanted for all Sunday Masses. Training will be given. Please see one of the Fathers.

THE POPE SAYS "THANK YOU"

Pope Benedict has written letters of thanks to Fr Richard and to the Archbishop for the welcome he received. He writes to the Archbishop: "**It was deeply moving for me to celebrate the Beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman amid the natural beauties of Cofton Park...**" and to Fr Richard: "**I am writing to thank you most sincerely for your warm welcome on the occasion of my recent visit to the Oratory. That visit, on the very day of the beatification at Cofton Park of Cardinal John Henry Newman, a great son of England and of St Philip Neri, is one which I will personally treasure for a very long time to come. Please convey my gratitude to the Oratorians in Birmingham, and indeed elsewhere, for the work they do in promoting Newman's rich spiritual and intellectual legacy. Assuring you of my prayers, and invoking upon you the intercession of Blessed John Henry Newman, I willingly impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of grace and peace.**" A sincere "Thank you" from all the Fathers to all of you who helped to prepare for that never-to-be-forgotten day, and who were here to welcome the Holy Father so joyfully!