

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.

November 11th 2007: The Thirty-second Sunday of the Year: Remembrance Sunday

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On the Last Day we may learn how God's Providence brought the First World War to an end at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. The "eleventh hour" relates to the parable of the workers in the vineyard—the last of whom were hired at the eleventh hour, very nearly the end of the day. Not least of the providential reasons for the Armistice being in November must be to remind us (during this month of prayer for the dead) to pray for those who died in war. We owe a *particular* debt of gratitude to all those who died for our country whose intention was to keep us free from tyranny of all sorts.

For Catholics, Remembrance Day is not about *glorifying* those who died in war, but *praying* for them to complete their purgatory and enter heavenly life with Our Lady and the Saints. Many of them died very suddenly, with no time to prepare by repenting of their sins, and we know that many of them will have committed very serious sins. But God is merciful and we pray that His goodness may have helped them to make an act of sorrow at the last instant of their lives. Yet even after repentance there will *still* be the need for atonement—expiation—a process of "making up" for past sins and cleansing them and their after-effects away, which we call "Purgatory", without which it is impossible for any soul to enter into the presence of God's infinite goodness and light.

IT'S NOT ALL IN THE PAST, YOU KNOW!

It is true that we owe a special debt to those who "*for our tomorrow gave their today*". Yet we *not only* owe it to them to pray for the repose of their souls, *but also* to defend over again all that they fought for, and to oppose strenuously all that they fought against. Tyranny cannot be defeated once for ever, at least not until the Second Coming of Our Lord. Tyranny, the rule of wicked men, even when it is disguised under the cloak of "law", is always looking to creep back. We fought the Second World War to defeat the tyranny of Hitler and National Socialism, the atheistic philosophy of the "Master Race" set to rule with an iron fist over the "inferior races" of the world. Having won that war by God's grace, we still have to fight against the forces that Nazism unleashed on the world. It was Nazism that first imposed eugenics on its own people: the idea that only certain people were "fit" to have children—those who matched the Nazi ideal. Others were prevented from having children by State intervention, through compulsory programmes of sterilisation and abortion. Similarly, the "unfit to live", especially the handicapped, were forcibly removed from their homes and families and killed in cold blood. At Auschwitz, the infamous Dr Mengele (the so-called "Angel of death") conducted horrific experiments on prisoners who were considered to be of inferior race or "non-persons", all in the name of "research" and "progress". Many of those subjected to his cold, "objectively scientific" cruelty either lived in terrible pain and suffering or died. But they were expendable. Those who spoke out against such evil, and those who, for instance, dared to distribute Pope Pius XI's encyclical condemning Nazism, were imprisoned or executed. The great (now Blessed) Cardinal Bishop Von Galen, who loudly condemned Hitler's eugenic programme from the pulpit, only avoided execution because Hitler marked him down for destruction once he had won the war.

Although this seems to be all in the past, it isn't really. We now live under a tyranny—one that does not fly the Swastika. Yet like Nazism, this tyranny operates under the cloak of "law". The most anti-life Parliament in the history of this country now passes laws that are trampling on the hard-won victory over Hitler. Our Christian religion and the protection it accords the vulnerable from conception to natural death, are hated and despised by the establishment which frames and administers such laws as: abortion, effectively on demand (up to birth in cases of *perceived* handicap); euthanasia of the mentally incapacitated by starvation and dehydration; research on human embryos which are then discarded. Now, in a way that ominously goes further than Dr. Mengele's Death Camp experiments, Parliament is proposing to create embryos who shall be part-human and part-animal for further experimentation – the creation of a "sub-race" solely as objects for others to experiment on. Simultaneously, MPs are considering a change in the law to make it *easier than it is already* to procure an abortion.

Last Wednesday at St. Chad's Cathedral, Lord David Alton spoke firmly and passionately about the need for more of us to fight against this evil tyranny. Please take a little time to write to Peers protesting against what is being proposed. You may find the sheets at the Church Door, provided by SPUC, helpful in composing a letter. This is a war that is *every bit as serious as the World Wars of the 20th century*. Your children may ask you one day, "what did *you* do in the Great War for life?" What will you tell them? Whether or not your children ask you, Almighty God will certainly ask you the same question when you meet him as your Judge. What will you tell *Him*? Please respond to Lord Alton's call-to-arms! Please get active in the War!

Sunday November 11th: The 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green) *Remembrance Sunday*

Year 3 or C of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. <i>Low Mass</i> | • 12.45 p.m. <i>Tridentine Mass (in the Cloister Chapel)</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>Solemn Requiem for those killed in war</i> | • 5.30 p.m. <i>Sung Congregational Mass</i> |
| • 12.00 p.m. <i>(Families with young children)</i> | • <i>Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m.</i> |

The THIRTY-SECOND WEEK OF THE YEAR: Liturgical Calendar

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

Stations of the Cross: 8 pm. Fridays in November

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

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

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

St Josaphat (1584-1623) A Polish monk in the Byzantine Rite, he became Archbishop of Potolsk and devoted his work to bring about the union of Orthodox Catholics with the Holy See. But he was murdered by those who opposed unity under the Pope.

Tuesday November 13th: Feria. (Green).

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Devotions

Wednesday November 14th: Feria. (Green).

Thursday November 15th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of **St Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (White)**

St Albert the Great (1200-80) Born in Germany he joined the Dominicans. He was one of the Church's greatest intellects and was among the first of the great natural scientists, gaining a reputation for expertise in all areas of the sciences and mathematics. He was also a renowned theologian. He taught in Paris and Cologne, and St Thomas Aquinas was one of his students. He was Bishop of Regensburg.

Friday November 16th: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of **St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop. (White); or of St Margaret of Scotland. (White); or of St Gertrude, Virgin. (White)**

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

St Edmund of Abingdon (1180-1242) He was ordained at Oxford, where he taught at the University, and was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. He became an advisor to King Henry III, but subsequently, was forced to resign his see because of his loyalty to the Pope, and he was exiled to Pontigny, where he became a Cistercian. He was known for his holiness and was blessed with heavenly visions.

St Margaret of Scotland (d. 1093) An English princess, she spent her early life at the court of St Stephen of Hungary. Married to Malcolm of Scotland, she had enormous influence on him and his country, establishing art and education, but especially in her example of prayer and charitable works, and in the building of churches.

St Gertrude (1227-1301) A Benedictine Abbess and a mystic, her writings fostered devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Sacred Heart. She is the Patron of the West Indies.

Saturday November 18th: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or Feria, (Green). Optional memorias of **St Elizabeth of Hungary. (White); or of St Hilda, Abbess. (White); or of St Hugh of Lincoln. (White)**

- **Mass 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. until the end of Mass**
- **Vigil Mass of the THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR at 5.45 p.m.**

St Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-31) 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 Franciscan hospital which she had built.

St Hilda (614-80) An Abbess at Whitby, she developed the abbey into a place of culture and learning, and hosted the Synod of Whitby through which Roman customs were adopted by the Church in England.

St Hugh of Lincoln A French Carthusian, he became an abbot in Somerset. He was a man of generosity and justice, defending the poor and the oppressed Jewish community. When appointed Bishop of Lincoln, he restored the previously neglected diocese.

Sunday November 18th: The THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Green)

Mass Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **10.30 a.m. High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **12.45 p.m. Latin Mass 1962 Missal (in the Cloister Chapel)**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass in English**
- **Vespers and Benediction: 7.30**

Please pray for the sick: Mary Flood, Margaret Casey, Lucia Tambura, Elaine Roberts, Janina Stolarewicz, Frank McGuinness, Joan Murphy, Jacqueline Griffiths, Miles Drew, Margaret Corbett, Desmond Williams, Elizabeth Snape, Mary Mackay, John McCann, Kerry Mooney and Emma Wilson. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Irene Moss and David Tully; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr John Cook of this Oratory, Mary Fenlon, Nance Dunn, John O'Driscoll, Cicely Moody, Patrick Wilkie, Thomas Logan, Kathleen Cunningham and Kevin Molloy

The following are requested to read next weekend, November 17/18th, the Thirty-third Sunday

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck

Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne

12.00 p.m.: Eamon Grant

5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

Thirty-first Sunday, 4th November:

Offertory: £1,313

Second: Church in China: £1,418

Many thanks

The Second Collection today will be for the Diocesan Development Fund

Next week's Second Collection will also be for the DDF

TODAY

HOLY SOULS' ENVELOPES are at the doors of the church for you to place the names of the dead for whom you wish prayers to be offered during November, the month of the Holy Souls. Please put the envelopes in the box at the Holy Souls' altar (left hand side of the church) **but please do not put money in them. THEY ARE NOT FOR MASS OFFERINGS.**

PIETY STALL: A beautiful selection of Christmas cards from **Aid to the Church in Need**, and others, together with cribs, advent calendars, calendars, diaries, children's Christmas books, etc now on sale.

THIS WEEK

EMBRYO RESEARCH BILL: Please take a copy of the SPUC Action Sheet at the Church Doors, and, most important of all, please write to at least one of the members of the House of Lords during the coming week. There is nothing to prevent you from duplicating your letter and sending it to several Peers. In fact, the more you can write to, the better. Also, please remember to pray for this intention.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS for the Holy Souls take place on Fridays in November at 8 p.m. after the Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on **Tuesday** beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Please continue to pray for the protection of Rednal.

ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS/ carers: The series of short talks continues on Monday from 2.30—3.15 p.m. in the Music Room

at school. This week we will be having an open session of questions and answers.

ST PHILIP'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION: The annual requiem is on Monday 12th November at 8 p.m.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS : the annual Requiem is on Tuesday 13th November at 9.30 a.m.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB meets in Edgbaston, on Tuesday 13th November from 12—2 p.m. to discuss Jesus of Nazareth by Pope Benedict. Copies of the book still available at the Piety Stall. For details of the club, please contact Jackie Parkes Tel 0121-688-4154 (rosary@blueyonder.co.uk). New members always welcome.

A CLOISTER SALE in aid of sending children to Lourdes will be held after Sunday Masses next weekend, 17th/18th.

NOTICES

THE HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS meet at the back of Church every Saturday after the 8 a.m. Mass to go and pray outside the Calthorpe Clinic on Arthur Road. Their witness is of great importance outside one of the busiest death-factories in the country. They ask you; "Please come and join us, or support us in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, on Saturday mornings."

FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN AT SUNDAY 12 o'clock MASS: Just a reminder that parents with small children are welcome to take them into St. Philip's Chapel where there is a collection of picture books with prayers for the Mass and stories about Saints and the Scriptures.