

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.

October 14th 2007: The Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year



THE UNGRATEFUL LEPERS

Today we hear about the ten lepers who were healed by Our Lord and went off rejoicing at their restoration to health and society. Not only were they no longer smitten by a horrible wasting disease, but just as importantly for them, they were no longer social outcasts, condemned to live for the remainder of their lives only in the company of other poor lepers. But we also learn how sad it made Our Lord that only one of the ten had the gratitude to come back to Him and thank Him, and that one was a Samaritan, not a Jew. How often do **we** forget to thank God for blessings we receive? Have we ever prayed for a great favour, and on receiving it, failed *straight away* to come and give thanks to God?

CLERICAL COLLAR—CAUSE OF PROVOCATION?

You may possibly have heard an item on the radio last Sunday, (or if not, you can read it in this weekend's Catholic Herald), that "National Churchwatch", an advisory body to the Church of England, has recommended that clergymen, when on their own, should not wear clerical collars in the streets or shops, because they are a provocation to violence! (By the way, at least one Anglican clergyman has already said that the suggestion is rubbish). Not surprisingly, this "advice" has also been publicised among Catholics. One priest has pointed out (also in the Catholic Herald) that we may not be as often exposed to danger in the same way that Anglican clergy can be. Precisely because we tend to live in cities, we are paradoxically safer than those who live in isolation in small towns or in the country. In any case, we thought you would like to know that we do not agree with the advice and have no intention of abandoning an outward sign of our state of life which we find that many people here on our streets and in our shops are very glad to see!

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP): PART TWO

Geraldine McCarthy writes that "*The Oratory Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks everyone for the tremendous response to the Second Collection of 6th/7th October. If anyone would like to make the ultimate donation of their time to join the Society please 'phone Geraldine McCarthy on 455 7530 (evenings) or see one of the Oratory Fathers.*" Once again we would like to invite everyone who reads the Newsletter to consider not *whether* you should do something with your free time for the love of God and neighbour, but *what* you should do, if you are not already doing it.

There are many different forms of the Apostolate in which God's work is being done in this parish and in others. All of them require more helpers! The SVP Conference usually meets on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. in the Oratory House; The Helpers of God's Precious Infants witness and pray outside the Abortion Clinic after the 8 a.m. Mass on Saturdays; the Brothers of the Little Oratory and the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) both meet on Tuesdays after Benediction; the Legion of Mary (LOM) Senior Praesidium meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; the LOM Junior Praesidium meets on Fridays at 5.30. The Altar Society, the Walsingham Association and the GOBS (which supports children going on pilgrimage to Lourdes) all meet occasionally as advertised. All need new members! **Calling all you who are reading this to give generously of your time!**

NEXT SUNDAY IS MISSION SUNDAY

Each year in October we set aside one of the Sundays for prayers for the Missions and a Collection is taken up for the APF (**Association for the Propagation of the Faith**), which is the Pope's own missionary organisation. During the course of the year, as all of you who come here week by week will know, the famous "red boxes" are being handed out empty and taken back filled with your money for the APF. This round-the-year collection has always been tremendously well supported in this parish, and (although this is not the point of the exercise) it is gratifying that we are always the best, or one of the best contributing parishes in the Diocese. Of course, this success—like all success—is not achieved without a great deal of effort not only on the part of the many of you who contribute your money in the red boxes, but also the good volunteers who act as agents for this steady contribution under the agency of Monica Hynes KSG. What a wonderful contribution to Mission Sunday it would be if we not only had a good Second Collection, but if yet more of you would be prepared: a) to take red boxes and keep them at home if you do not already do so; and b) become agents for the distribution and collection of the red boxes, encouraging others to take and use them too!

Sunday October 14th: The 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green)

Year 3 or C of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.45 p.m. Tridentine Mass (in the Cloister Chapel) |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) | • Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m. |

The TWENTY-EIGHTH WEEK OF THE YEAR: Liturgical Calendar

Monday and Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. October Devotions (including the Rosary) at 8 p.m.
Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass

Monday October 15th: St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church. Memorial. (White).

• **October Devotions at 8 p.m.**

St Teresa (1515-82) was born in Avila where she joined the Carmelites. As her spirituality grew, she became concerned at the state of the Order, and amidst much opposition set about its reform. She received many mystical experiences, described in her books which are still used today as guides to prayer. She is a Doctor of the Church.

Tuesday October 16th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Hedwig, Religious. (White) or of St Margaret Mary Alacoque. (White)

• **October Devotions at 8 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after**

St Hedwig (1174-1243) Married aged twelve to the head of the Polish royal family, she had seven children. With her husband she fostered the growth of religious life in their kingdom, and following his death, she entered one of the convents she had founded, devoting herself to charitable works. She endured many sufferings, and all but one of her children pre-deceased her. St Elizabeth of Hungary was a niece.

St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-90) At 24, she joined the Visitation order in Paray-le-Monial. During 1673-75 she had visions of Our Lord concerning devotion to His Heart, symbolizing His love for us, which mankind so often rejects. Devotion to the Sacred Heart rapidly spread, despite much opposition, and was made general in 1856.

Wednesday October 17th: St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr. (Red)

• **October Devotions at 8 p.m.**

St Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch (d.107). He was a gentle and patient man, passionately devoted to Our Lord. He was captured and whilst on the journey to Rome, where he was thrown to the wild beasts, he wrote seven letters which are still of great doctrinal value.

Thursday October 18th: St Luke, Evangelist. Feast. (Red)

• **October Devotions at 8 p.m.**

St Luke was a gentle Physician. Author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, he accompanied St Paul on many of his missions. He is the only Evangelist to record Our Lord's early life, whence tradition has always placed him close to Our Lady.

Friday October 19th: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of Sts John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues and Companions, Martyrs. (Red); or of St Paul of the Cross, Priest. (White); or of St Frideswide, Abbess. (White)

• **October Devotions at 8 p.m.**

St John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues & Comps. (d.1649) Jesuits, they worked among the Huron Indians, but were captured and horribly martyred by the Iroquois Indians.

St Paul of the Cross (1694-1775) After a series of visions, he founded the Passionists, dedicated to missionary work centred on Our Lord's Passion.

St Frideswide (d. c.735) An Anglo-Saxon princess, she founded a convent in Oxford, of which City and University she is the Patron Saint.

Saturday October 20th: Our Lady on Saturday (White); or Feria. (Green)

• **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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**

• **Vigil Mass of the TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR at 5.45 p.m.**

Sunday October 14th: The TWENTY-NINTH 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. Low Mass**
- **Vespers and Benediction: 7.30**

Please pray for the sick: Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville, Margaret Casey, Janina Stolarewicz, Barbara Carey, Frank McGuinness, Miles Drew, Olive Shelton, Carole Halls, Margaret Corbett, Karen Scragg, Peggy Archer, Desmond Williams, Elizabeth Snape, Edward Snape, Mary Mackay, John McCann, Kerry Mooney, Emma Wilson and Jacqueline Griffiths. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Irene Kuzminski and Edward Floyd; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr John Norris of this Oratory, Fr Roland Connolly, Sr Carmela Pia Hayward, Josephine Mc Millan, Judith Heron, Joseph Mitchell, Patrick Mitchell, Martin Holland and Charles McCarthy.

Edward Floyd's funeral is on Tuesday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: Monday at 4.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read next weekend, October 19th/20th, the Twenty-ninth Sunday

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan

Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin

12.00 p.m.: Eamon Grant

5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

Twenty-seventh Sunday, 7th October:

Offertory: £1,363

Second: Society of St Vincent de Paul: £1,979

Many thanks

**The Second Collection today will be for the DDF
Next week's Second Collection will be for The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF)**

TODAY

PIETY STALL: Christmas cards, cribs, advent calendars & other calendars, children's Christmas books etc are now on sale.

THIS WEEK

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS : nightly short meditation, Rosary and Benediction at 8 p.m. every weekday evening in October.

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place on Wednesday beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Please continue to pray for the protection of Rednal from danger.

ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS/ carers: The series of short talks on the Faith continue on Monday, 15th October, in the Music Room at school. The subject this week will be Life issues: Ethics, Euthanasia & Abortion.

FRIENDS OF CARDINAL NEWMAN AGM takes place on Wednesday 17th

October at 7.30 p.m. followed by a presentation: "Newman, Elgar & the Dream of Gerontius"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABORTION ACT: Two events for your diary: 1. Morning of Prayer & Witness: Sat 27th October, commencing with Mass at 8 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, then walking, saying the Rosary, to the Calthorpe (abortion) Clinic, Arthur Road, returning to the Oratory for Benediction at 10.45. **2. A Memorial Concert** will take place on Thursday 8th November at 7.45 p.m. Tickets £5. Obtainable from Jim Caffrey: 733 7924 See poster for more details.

A QUICK LOOK AT THE OFFERTORY PROCESSION

An important moment in the Mass, often overlooked because it is over so quickly, is the Offertory Procession, when the bread and wine we give to God are brought to the Altar. They are carried by members of the laity to be handed over to the priest. They represent our human contribution to the Mass because they are, on the one hand, the "fruit of the earth", which comes as God's gift to us, yet they are also the "work of human hands", which we return to God so that He may transform them into the Body and Blood of Christ for us to offer them to God as the Sacrifice of our salvation, which reconciles us with God.

It is fitting that this service at Mass should be done principally by women and girls. Men are ordained to be Christ at the Altar. Women are chosen by God to bring life into the world as mothers. They are the most appropriate persons to bring the fruits of the earth and work of human hands up to the Altar where Christ will change them into His own Flesh and Blood. **For this reason we would like to ask as many girls and women as possible to accept the invitation to take up the Offertory gifts.**