

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 15th 2008: THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



THE APOSTLES

Today's Gospel clearly shows the compassion of Christ our Lord in His appointment of the twelve Apostles. It was because He saw the crowds of people who thronged to hear Him as *"harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd"* that He told His disciples, or followers, that *"the harvest is great but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His harvest."*

It is only after this exhortation to His followers to pray that He Himself takes action. His action is itself a response to prayer. We see that He will not act until He has first galvanised His followers into the need for prayer to deal with this great and urgent pastoral need. He summons the twelve closest of His disciples and gives them special powers which properly belong to Himself. These powers are all designed to assist the people in their needs, both spiritual and bodily. Christ gives the twelve the title *"Apostle"*, meaning *"one who is sent forth"*. In another place in the Gospel He explains this choice of title: *"As the Father sent me, so am I sending you"*. Their mission (a word which means *"sending forth"*) is to be exactly a replica of His own. They are to be in a sense the continuation of His presence in the midst of mankind. They are to bring His relief, comfort and salvation to those who would otherwise be lost in sin, despair and death.

So what are the powers Christ gives the Twelve Apostles? First in order is *"authority over unclean spirits"*. This is very significant. What we can fail to recognise after two thousand years of Christianity is the total grip over humanity which Satan exercised until Christ came. Of course we see the results of Satan's baleful influence over mankind still causing destruction, but we can be fooled into thinking that it is purely human malice that creates this darkness and death-dealing despair. Don't human beings themselves *choose* to be wicked? Can't they equally well *choose* to be good? Yet even St. Paul recognised the difficulty we all experience in trying to choose what is good. He analyses this experience with extraordinary penetration in his letter to the Romans, see especially ch. 7 vv. 14-25, where he laments that *"the fact is, I know of nothing good living in me—living, that is, in my unspiritual self—for though the will to do what is good is in me, the performance is not, with the result that instead of doing the good things I want to do, I carry out the sinful things I do not want. When I act against my will, then, it is not my true self doing it, but sin which lives in me."* If even a saint, a holy Apostle, one redeemed by Christ and devoted to Him, as St. Paul was - if even such a one can find *"doing good"* difficult, then how much more so will those who are not devoted to Christ at all?

This is the state of fallen mankind, which Our Lord comes to mend. His own power over Satan is manifested in His many miracles, driving out the devil from the possessed. But we should not think that only the *"possessed"* are in need of liberation from the power of the devil. The *"possessed"* may indeed be those who most evidently show the power of the devil over them, but in truth we are all subject to this power without the counteracting power of Christ, as St. Paul makes clear. It is this power over Satan's influence which, in the first place, Christ gave His Apostles. It is this power which they, and their successors, the Bishops and Priests, exercise in their mission and in the administration of the Sacraments. This power over Satan is united by Christ with power over *"all kinds of diseases and sickness"*, which are closely allied with Satan. Our Lord spoke of the woman with the issue of blood as one *"whom Satan had bound up for many years"*. This association of sickness with the devil is not of course, a *simple and straightforward* association of cause and effect, as though every sickness were a punishment for a specific sin. Our Lord revealed that most clearly when the Apostles queried Him about the man born blind, *"who sinned, Lord, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"* Our Lord replied that *"Neither this man sinned nor his parents, but he was born blind that the works of God might be displayed in him"*. So the Church in every age, founded on the Apostles and on their mission, continues to *"display the works of God"* in liberating mankind from sin and Satan's power.

Sunday June 15th: Eleventh Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year I or A of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. 1962 rite Mass (in the church) | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction |

ELEVENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: 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. Benediction on Friday at 8 p.m. in Honour of the Sacred Heart

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

<p>Monday June 16th: Feria. (Green). <i>Optional memoria of St Richard of Chichester, Bishop.</i> (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m. <p>St Richard of Chichester (1197-1262) Born into a farming family in Droitwich, (hence he is also sometimes known as "St. Richard of Wyche", i.e. Droitwich) he was educated at Oxford and Paris, and was appointed Chancellor of Oxford University, but was soon called to be Chancellor to (St) Edmund of Abingdon at Canterbury. Problems with the king forced the two into exile in France, where Edmund died, and Richard returned to England a priest. Appointed Bishop of Chichester, he was determined to stamp out abuses and reform the lax behaviour of the clergy. He was known for his simple way of life, his generosity, and love for the humbler people of his flock.</p>	<p>Sunday June 22nd: The Twelfth Sunday of the Year (Green)</p> <p>Mass & Service Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<p>Tuesday June 17th: Feria. (Green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benediction at 8 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction <p>Wednesday June 18th: The Dedication of the Cathedral. Feast. (White)</p> <p>Thursday June 19th: Feria. (Green). <i>Optional memoria of St Romuald, Abbot.</i> (White)</p> <p>St Romuald (c.951-1027) Born at Ravenna he lived a worldly life until he witnessed his father kill a relative. He decided to atone for the crime as if he had committed it himself. He joined the Benedictines rising to Abbot. He sought to restore penance and solitude in monasticism, and after founding several monasteries, he founded the austere Order of Camaldoli in Tuscany.</p>	<p>Please pray for the sick: Evelyn Arrigho, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea and Cathal McGrory. Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Tom Whittle and Paulinus Onwuachu; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Stella Lowan and Bernadette Lingard.</p>
<p>Friday June 20th: St Alban. Martyr. Memoria. (Red).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benediction in Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8 p.m. <p>St Alban A Briton and a pagan, he was converted by a priest he sheltered, then helped to escape by changing places with him. He was martyred at Verulamium, now St Alban's, in c. 287. He is the proto-martyr of England.</p>	<p>The following are requested to read next weekend, June 21st/22nd: Twelfth Sunday of the Year:</p> <p>Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins 12.00 p.m. Eamon Grant 5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey</p>
<p>Saturday June 21st: St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious. Memoria. (White). <i>St John Rigby, English Martyr.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m. Benediction and Novena before St Philip's Day 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 First Mass of Sunday: Twelfth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m. <p>St Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-91) His father was an Italian noble and soldier in the service of King Philip II, and Aloysius was expected to join the military. But he abhorred violence and at 17, received his father's permission to join the Jesuits. Soon after, plague broke out and he worked tirelessly caring for the sick, succumbing to illness from which he never fully recovered. Many attested to his holiness. He died at age 23.</p> <p>St John Rigby Martyred in 1600. A layman from near Wigan, he had occasionally 'conformed' by attending Protestant services, but repented and was responsible for several conversions. He was arrested and placed in Newgate Prison. Like all the English Martyrs, he declared his loyalty to the Queen, but said "...if it be treason to be reconciled to God, God's Will be done." He was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Southwark.</p>	<p>Collections</p> <p><i>The Tenth Sunday of the Year, 8th June:</i> Offerstory: £1,328 Second: Maintenance of our church: £519 Retiring Collection: SPUC 'White Flower': £561 Thank you</p> <p>Second Collection today: Diocesan Development Fund</p>

<p>TODAY</p> <p>The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall. (New books and DVDs, including some for children, are in stock.)</p> <p>"THE SIEGE OF JERICHO" ends today with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the outer perimeter of the Calthorpe (abortion) Clinic in Arthur Road, commencing at 2 p.m. The Rosary will be said during the procession and we will finish with Benediction outside the Clinic. Those who came in previous years will recall what a wonderful and moving act of witness this was, so we appeal to all of you to make your best effort to join us.</p> <p>ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Tuesday afternoon (note the change of day) commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will finally be granted.</p> <p>NEXT WEEK the Appeal Hearing will be heard at the Midland Institute on Margaret Street in the City Centre (near the Central Library). It will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 24th June and continue over three days. Consequently the Rednal day of prayer next week will be on Monday afternoon beginning as usual with Mass at 2.30 p.m.</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART is on Friday at 8 p.m.</p> <p>ORATORY PARISH COUNCIL meets on Monday at 8 p.m. in the Lower Cloister Hall.</p>	<p>EX CATHEDRA CONCERT: Parisian Vespers by candlelight takes place in our church on Wednesday 18th June. Please note, <i>we do not take bookings.</i> Ticket enquiries: 0121 236 4455.</p> <p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES, HEDNESFORD takes place on Sunday 6th July, commencing with Rosary at 3 p.m. Mass at 4 p.m. will be followed by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and blessing of the sick. For full details, including directions to get there, see the poster in the cloisters.</p> <p>THE LATIN MASS SOCIETY is celebrating its annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Winefride at Holywell, North Wales, on Sunday, July 6th with a Solemn High Mass at 2.30 p.m. See the poster for details.</p> <p>ECUMENICAL SONGS OF PRAISE organised by our local Council of Churches will take place on Sunday July 6th at St. George's Anglican Church, Edgbaston, at 6.30 p.m.</p> <p>NOTICES</p> <p>REDNAL GROUNDS DAY. On Saturday, July 5th (weather permitting) we would like to invite volunteers to come to Rednal and help to do some basic work clearing the paths and trimming bushes etc. under the expert guidance of our gardener, Glenn Fraser. Food and drink will be provided during the course of the day. There is a list at the back door of the church for volunteers to sign up.</p>
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