

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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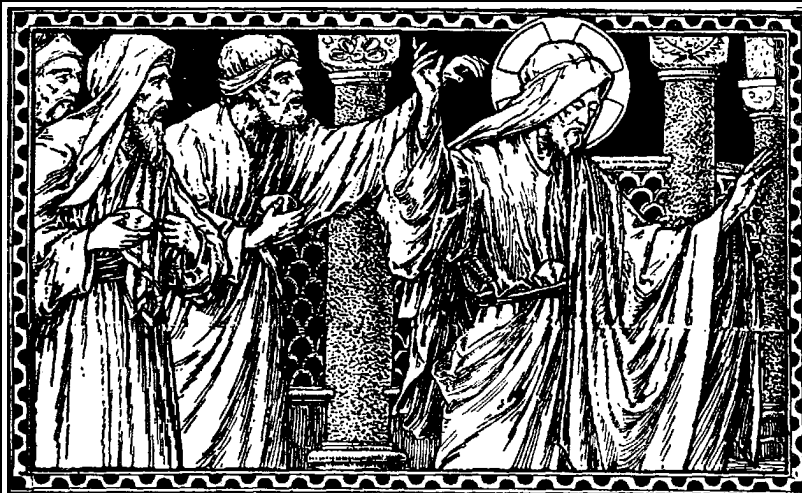
Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

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This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.

January 31st 2010: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



OUR LORD REJECTED BY HIS OWN

In last Sunday's Gospel passage we heard how Our Lord returned to His home town of Nazareth for the first time after His Baptism and told the astonished townsfolk that Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah was now fulfilled in their hearing by Himself.

Yet because they knew Him, or thought they knew Him—"isn't this Joseph the Carpenter's son?"—they would not accept that He could be anything out of the ordinary. Our Lord went on to tell them how this was like what had happened in the case of two great figures from the Old Testament, Elijah and Elisha. They had both worked miracles for foreigners in need when they had not been able to do the same thing for any of their own people in the same need. In this way he illustrated the meaning of His words: "I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country."

Yet Jesus was unruffled at the Nazarenes' fury.

Although they were intent on throwing Him to His death from a very high point, He "slipped through the crowd and went away". Thus does Our Lord show himself always in control. No one could lay hands on Him unless He willed it. It would be so once again when He allowed Himself to be arrested in Gethsemane, once again "so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled" in Him "when His Hour had come".

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE: "CANDLEMAS"

Tuesday is Candlemas Day, the final liturgical celebration of the Nativity cycle of feasts. St. Luke tells us how Our Lady and St. Joseph brought the forty-day old baby Jesus to the Temple in accordance with the requirements of the Law. Interestingly, Leviticus 12, in which this Law is laid down, explains that the "purification" of the mother is not a ceremony which takes place in the temple, but rather refers to the entire time between the birth and the presentation. Thus it says "When the time of the mother's purification is completed..." This is why we no longer call this feast "The Purification of Our Lady", but more correctly, "The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple".

Candlemas Day, as the Presentation is familiarly known in England, was the Feast chosen by Father John Newman to set up his Oratory here in Birmingham in 1848. It was in the evening of February 1st, at the First Vespers of Candlemas Day, that he solemnly inaugurated the life of this Oratory, situated at that time-out at Maryvale, Old Oscott. That evening Fr Newman admitted five priests and one novice to the life of the Oratory which, by God's grace, has continued here ever since. After another fortnight had passed, Fr Faber and his companions would also be admitted to the Oratory at Bishop (later Cardinal) Wiseman's request. From that union the London Oratory was founded.

Please join the Fathers on Tuesday at High Mass to pray for the welfare of the Oratory Cardinal Newman founded and loved so well. May God grant that the good work he established here may ever prosper under Our Lady's and St. Philip's protection, and that this Oratory may be ever faithful to Holy Mother Church after his holy example.



Sunday January 31st: The Fourth 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*

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 at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Monday and Tuesday. Exposition on Saturday : 8.30—10.45 a.m.

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

Monday 1st February: Feria. (Green)

- **Triduo Prayers and Benediction to prepare for Candlemas at 8 p.m.**

Tuesday 2nd February: The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. (White)

- **Blessing of Candles, Procession and Solemn High Mass, at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 3rd February: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr. (Red); or of St Werburg, Abbess. (White)

- **The Blessing of Throats will be given after all Masses.**

St Blaise (d.316) He is thought to have been a physician before becoming Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, where he was martyred. Several miracles were attributed to him, one of which was the saving of a small boy who had swallowed a fishbone which could not be removed, hence the blessing of throats on his feast day.

St Werburg (d. c.700) A princess of Mercia, she was born in Staffordshire. Following the death of her husband, she joined Ely Abbey and eventually became its Abbess. She was very influential and did much to reform convents throughout the Midlands and further afield. She was buried at Hanbury in Staffordshire but her remains were later transferred to Chester, of which church and monastery she became patroness.

Thursday 4th February: Feria. (Green)

Friday 5th February: St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr. Memoria. (Red)

St Agatha (d. 251) A young Sicilian woman, she had dedicated her life to God, and refused to acquiesce to the demands of an influential nobleman, who knowing that she was a Christian in time of persecution, had her arrested assuming that the fear of torture and death would change her mind. It did not and she suffered horrible tortures before she was finally martyred.

Saturday 6th February: Sts Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs. Memoria. (Red)

Please note changes to this morning's programme:

- **Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.00 a.m. only**
- **Benediction at 10.00 a.m.**
- **11 a.m. : Knights of Malta Mass with anointing of the sick.**
- **Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (The Fifth Sunday of the Year) at 5.45 p.m.**

Sts Paul Miki & Comps (d.1597) Son of a Japanese military leader, he was educated by the Jesuits and then joined them in 1580 and was renowned for his eloquent preaching. He and twenty-five others, including several laymen who worked for the Jesuits, were tortured and crucified at Nagasaki. They were the first martyrs of the Far East to be canonised. Nagasaki remains the most Christian city in Japan.

February 7th: The Fifth 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 in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Kathleen Coggins, Connie Hayward, Tony Colqhoun, Tony Farmer, Philip Kilroy, Pat Cartwright, Leroy McCoy, Carolyn Knight, David Pritchard, James Foynes, Michael McCann and Philip McCann.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Catherine Duffy, Stanley Cann and Patricia Mooney.

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Jack Quigley, George Dunbar, Mollie Adams, John Beardsmore, Ethel Griffiths, Alfred Howell, Catherine McAlinden, Lizzie Donnelly, May Lawler, Monica Brunt and John Brunt.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, February 6th/7th, The Fifth Sunday of the Year:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

The Third Sunday of the Year:
24th January, 2010

Offertory: £1,565
Second: ACN Haiti Appeal: £1,415

Many Thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND will again be for the **ACN (Aid to the Church in Need) Haiti appeal**
THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses (including after the Saturday 5.45 p.m. Mass) all 2010 calendars are reduced in price.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY IS THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD: There will be a High Mass at 8 p.m. with Blessing of Candles and Procession (*Rosary will be at 7.45 p.m. as usual*).

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week. However, instead, we will have Adoration on Monday in the Cloister Chapel, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. followed by Exposition and ending with Benediction at c.4.45 p.m.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (ages 20–35) next meeting is on Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. The theme of the discussion will be "Deliver us from evil".

The ANNUAL MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place on Saturday at 11 a.m. Forms for those eligible and who wish to receive the Sacrament are available at the doors of the church. Lunch will be available after Mass at a cost of £5. *This must also be booked by completion of the appropriate section of the form.* **Please return forms by TODAY, 31st January.**

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH meets on Saturday 6th February at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House. All are welcome.

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS PTFE QUIZ NIGHT is on Friday at 7.30 p.m. Adults £3 children £2. Price includes light refreshments. Soft drinks can be purchased on the night. See poster for more details.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The ANNIVERSARY OF CARDINAL NEWMAN'S BIRTH, 21st February, falls this year on the First Sunday of Lent. There will be a Musical Oratory at 3 p.m. followed by refreshments.

ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 30th April-7th May: Sick, disabled and aged people are invited to take part in a pilgrimage £250 is asked towards the cost, but anything over that amount is welcomed from those who can afford it. Accommodation in the Accueil Notre Dame. Contact Anthony Brown on 01823 480441 or e email: alison-anthony@battensfarm.fsnet.co.uk *Please apply as soon as possible as spaces are limited.*

NOTICES

CONFIRMATION: the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered by Bishop Pargeter on Wednesday March 17th at 7 p.m. Anyone wishing to receive the Sacrament, or any who wish their children (aged nine or over) to receive the Sacrament should see Fr Guy as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made for instruction by the Parish catechist.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

To those who made a lukewarm and rather indifferent confession of sin, he dearly demonstrated by his own tears of pain how "abominable" this attitude was: "I weep because you don't weep", he would say. "If only the Lord were not so good! But he is so good! One would have to be a brute to treat so good a Father this way!" He awakened repentance in the hearts of the lukewarm by forcing them to see God's own pain at their sins reflected in the face of the priest who was their confessor. To those who, on the other hand, came to him already desirous of and suited to a deeper spiritual life, he flung open the abyss of God's love, explaining the untold beauty of living in union with him and dwelling in his presence: "Everything in God's sight, everything with God, everything to please God... How beautiful it is!" And he taught them to pray: "My God, grant me the grace to love you as much as I possibly can".