

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 12th 2008: THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



THANKS, GOD, BUT 'NO THANKS'!

Today's Gospel is another parable in which Our Lord warns His own people not to take their status as God's Chosen People too much for granted. Last Sunday's Gospel was the stern warning of the Wicked Tenants who killed the Landowner's son. Today Our Lord puts the same message in quite another form. A King (God the Father) invites His friends (the Jewish People) to a Marriage Feast for His Son (Heaven). As soon as everything has been prepared the King sends out his servants (the Prophets) to tell those invited to come to the Feast. But they just can't be bothered and make excuses. They are too interested in their businesses and their farms, and some go so far as to maltreat, and even to kill the messengers. Then the King, in his anger, cancels the invitation to those ungrateful people and sends out other servants to invite anyone they can find in the streets, tramps, cripples, waifs and strays—all sorts of people who would never have been thought "worthy" of an invitation in the first place. These willingly ac-

cept the invitation. Being poor and despised, they are only too grateful to be invited to a great feast. In these people Our Lord invites us to see the gentiles who are called into God's Church because the Chosen people had rejected Him.

Yet, just as in the Gospel last week, we should be far from complacent at hearing this message. We, the gentiles, are indeed the fortunate ones who have been invited to the Wedding Feast, i.e. to belong to Christ and His Church on earth and so find the way to heaven. This invitation to us has come about providentially because of the rejection of Christ by His own people, the Jews. Yet what was true of them in Our Lord's time on earth is also true of us, here and now.

Just think how the "Christian" countries of the world are, by and large, among the wealthiest today: America, Europe, Australasia. But how truly Christian are these countries now? Isn't it the case that we who live in what was once the heartland of Christendom are now the most godless of all people in the modern world? It is the West which has abandoned faith in God and practise of religion. This abandonment of faith in God is called "apostasy". Apostasy is not just *indifferent* to God—it is *vehemently* anti-God and anti-life. It is the "Christian" West which pioneers anti-life technology and legislation and then imposes this on the poorer world through instruments like the United Nations and the World Banks. The modern western world, which has for centuries enjoyed the privileges of the Catholic Faith, has now rejected it and either mocks, or even actively persecutes, the faith which made it once great and spiritually wealthy. The truth is that, having once been the poor waifs and strays grateful to be invited into God's kingdom, we are now the ones who spurn His invitations. When we stop coming to Mass every Sunday—when we count our leisure time as more important than the time we give to God—when we allow our children to spend time in activities which get in the way of going to Sunday Mass—when we decide we know better than the Church what is right and good for us—when we ignore the invitation to come and worship our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, as for instance in the Forty Hours last week—in all these ways we share in the apostasy of our modern western world. Like the people in Our Lord's parable today, we have been blinded by our businesses, our wealth, our technology. We have lost the sense of God and of our being called to eternal life by Him in Christ's Church.

So let the present financial crisis be a wake-up call to us all! Wealth is unreal. Only God is real. Here is what the Pope has to say about this at the opening of the Synod of Bishops in Rome last week: "*We see now in the fall of the great banks, this money disappears; it is nothing -- and in the same way, all these things, which lack a true reality to depend on, and are elements of a second order. The word of God is the basis of everything, it is the true reality. And to be realists, we should count on this reality. We should change our idea that matter, solid things, things we touch, are the most solid and secure reality.*"

The Pope notes how our Lord spoke of the two possibilities of building a house on the sand or on a firm rock. "*He who builds only on things that are visible and tangible, on success, a career, money -- he is building on sand. Apparently these are the true realities, but one day they will pass away, and in this way, all these things that do not have a true reality to count on. He who builds his house on these realities, on material things, on success, on everything that seems to be, builds on sand. Only the Word of God is the foundation of all reality; it is stable like the heavens and more than the heavens. It is the reality. Therefore we should change our concept of realism. The realist is he who recognizes in the Word of God, in this reality apparently so fragile, the basis of everything.*"

Sunday October 12th: The Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 4

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *1962 Rite Mass (in the church)*
- 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. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

TWENTY-EIGHTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

*Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. October Devotions at 7.45 p.m.
Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass.*

Monday October 13th: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of **St Edward the Confessor**, King. (White)

- **Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m.** • **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.**

St Edward the Confessor (1004-60) Son of Ethelred III, and the last Anglo-Saxon English king, he founded the great monastery of St Peter (to honour the Pope) in West London, hence West-Minster Abbey, where he is buried. His was the only English Saint's shrine to survive the Reformation. His reign was peaceful and he was renowned for his generosity and concern for the poor. The title 'Confessor' refers to one who bore witness to Our Lord.

Tuesday October 14th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of **St Callistus I**, Pope and Martyr. (Red)

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction. New members welcome.

St Callistus I (d.222) A former Christian slave, he was ordained a deacon by Pope Zephyrinus, whom he succeeded in 217. He condemned several heresies but promoted a tolerant attitude towards those who rigorists thought beyond absolution. There were no official persecutions at the time of his death, but he has always been venerated as a martyr and may have been murdered, or killed during riots against Christians.

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

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.**

St Teresa of Jesus (1515-82) Born into Spanish nobility in Avila, she joined the Carmelites. Amidst much opposition from priests and religious she set about reforming the Order with the help of (St) John of the Cross. She had remarkable mystic experiences, described in her many writings which are still to be recommended as guides to spiritual growth and prayer.

Thursday October 16th: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of **St Hedwig**, Religious. (White); or of **St Margaret Mary Alacoque**, Religious. (White)

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.**

St Hedwig (1174-1243) Married at age 12 to the head of the Polish royal family, her husband helped her in her numerous charitable undertakings, the best known being the foundation of a Cistercian convent which she joined herself after his death. She devoted the remainder of her life to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the needy. She was the aunt of St Elizabeth of Hungary.

St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-90) A nun of the Visitation Order, she had four visions of Our Lord in which he requested the spread of devotion to His Sacred Heart, symbolizing His love of mankind, which so many reject. She suffered greatly and was treated with suspicion, especially in her own Order, before opposition subsided and the devotion spread.

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

- **October Devotions at 8.00 p.m.**

St Ignatius of Antioch (d 107) A disciple of St Peter, he was appointed Bishop of Antioch in Syria. He was captured, and on his way to Rome where he was to be thrown to the beasts in the Amphitheatre, he wrote seven letters which are still of great doctrinal value.

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

- **Masses 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**
- **First Mass of Sunday: The Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

St Luke: Author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Tradition has always placed him close to Our Lady as he is the only evangelist to record Our Lord's early life

Sunday October 12th : The Twenty-ninth 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 Mass in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Ingeborg Parkes, Kim Potter, , Carole Halls, Margaret Casey and Frank McGuinness. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Winifred O'Donnell, Louise Haycock and Patrick Martin; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr John Norris of this Oratory, Fr Volan Evans, Fr Roland Connelly, John Roe-buck, Josephine McMillan, Bernard Wardell, Anthony Preece, Joseph & Patrick Mitchell, Hilda Jones, Angela Clarkson, Elizabeth Minihane, Thresa McNamara, Nora Maloney, Sonnie Ramsay, Judith Heron Kathy Price and Martin Holland.

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

Patrick Martin's funeral is on Thursday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: before Mass.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, October 18th/19th
Twenty-ninth Sunday:**

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Morag Marinoni
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m. Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections

Twenty-seventh Sunday, 5th October:
Offertory: £1,564
Second: Harvest Family Fast: £685
Thank you

TODAY

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall after Mass.

THIS WEEK

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS will be from Monday to Friday this week, at **8 p.m.**, consisting of Rosary and Benediction. Please note the starting time, i.e. Rosary is not recited at the usual time of 7.45 p.m. since it forms part of the Devotions.

The ALTAR SOCIETY meets on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Oratory house.

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m..

CATHOLIC WOMENS' BOOK CLUB: The next meeting is on Friday. Sr Roseann Reddy (Sisters of the Gospel of Life) will give a talk which ties in with the study of the book *St Gianna Molla* (available on the Piety stall). This book will be studied until Christmas. Contact Mrs Jackie Parkes at rosary@blueyonder.co.uk or tel 0121-688-4154.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE ASSOCIATION FOR LATIN LITURGY holds its AGM at Nottingham Cathedral on Saturday 25th October. Programme includes: Solemn Mass at 12 noon (including Byrd's Mass for four voices); lunch; a talk by Dr Ian Wells on Catholic Nottingham; tea; and sung Vespers at 4.30 p.m. For further details see the Notice Board. If you would like to go and need transport, Fr Guy may be able to help.

THE FAITH, THE FAMILY, THE FUTURE, a conference of "hope for young people and families focusing on: exploring the beauty of the Church's vision for marriage and the family; passing on the faith to the next generation; celebrating the 40th anniversary of *Humanae*

Vitae"—will be held at All Saints' Pastoral Centre, London Colney, St. Albans (near the M25) on Saturday and Sunday 25th/26th October. For booking and details see website: www.faithandfamily.org.uk or email: faithandfamily2008@yahoo.co.uk

CARDINAL NEWMAN'S REMAINS. : Attendance at the special Mass at 11 a.m. on November 2nd, the transferred Feast of All Saints, which will be celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Vincent Nichols and at which the Cardinal's remains will be solemnly received, will be by ticket only. Forms of application can be found at the doors of the church. Alternatively, they can be downloaded at www.newmancause.co.uk or can be requested by telephone at 455 6323. (*Please note not from the Oratory's number*).

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2nd. Please note that there will be a special Mass schedule in operation on that Sunday morning: there will be no Masses at 8.30, 9.30 a.m. or 12 noon. Instead, Masses will be at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only. Admission to the 11 a.m. Mass is by ticket only (see above). The Masses on Saturday and Sunday evening will be at the usual times. There will be a low Mass in Latin (1962 rite) at 4.30 p.m.

NOTICES

HAGLEY ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC from Barnsley Road to Paradise Circus on the morning of Sunday, October 26th on account of another race. Unfortunately, it will be possible to approach the Oratory by car from south of the Hagley Road only via the Five Ways Roundabout, Ladywood Middleway, and Monument Road. We are also warned that extensive areas of Edgbaston will also be closed to traffic on account of this event. Phone 303 7398 for information.