

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

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

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School contact:

dickinsonc@oratory.bham.sch.uk



## October 3rd 2010: THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### MIRACLES: FAITH AND WORKS

The Apostles ask Our Lord to “increase our faith!” His reply is “if your faith were even as meagre as a tiny seed, you could tell a tree to uproot itself and be planted in the sea, and it would obey you!”

Before asking ourselves what Our Lord means by this answer, we need to find out what the Apostles mean by their question. At first it may seem that they are asking for faith in God, i.e. belief in Him. But it is not so much belief in God that they want as *trust* in Him to help them to work miracles, as Our Lord’s words to them show us.

It seems from Our Lord’s reply that the Apostles are eager to work miracles. If we cast our minds back to the beginning of chapter 10 in St. Luke’s Gospel, there were seventy two disciples sent by Our Lord to preach in His name, who came back rejoicing that they had not only preached in His name, but had worked many miracles in His name. On that occasion Our Lord had warned them not to glory in miracles, but rather to rejoice that their “names were written in the Book of Life”.

He goes on to tell a parable to the Twelve at this point, about the servant who, after ploughing his Master’s fields must still serve his Master’s meal before himself being allowed to eat. “Must the master be grateful to his servant for doing what he was told to do?” This parable only makes sense if it refers to the Apostles’ motive in wanting to work miracles. They remembered the seventy two coming back rejoicing from their miracles, and maybe they wanted to do the same so as to get some credit among the people.

Hence Our Lord’s warning. Just as He had told the seventy two disciples to “rejoice instead that your names are written in the Book of Life”, so now He says that the Twelve should not look for glory if they do any great works in Christ’s name. If they are doing what they have been told to do, should they expect any praise? Aren’t they just like servants who cannot expect to be praised for doing their duty, even if that duty is hard!

So with the Twelve, He says, don’t ask for the kind of faith that will help you to work miracles if you only want it for your own glory. That will do you no good, and you won’t be able to work such miracles anyway! Only a desire simply to do God’s will leads to working miracles.

But do miracles really happen? They still do, though rarely! Or at least that is how it seems to most of us. That is because it is easy to look for the wrong kind of thing. We can sometimes be aware of situations which seem impossible to turn out well, and yet they do. This can be miraculous, though not sensational. Sensational miracles are certainly rare.

For instance, we have waited so many years for a miracle to show us that Cardinal Newman is among the saints in heaven. We have had to overcome not only impatience, but also unbelief. It is not without significance that the miracle that brought about the beatification came not from this country but from America. So too, we are investigating a miracle that could lead to his canonisation—again, in the continent of America. If only we had more faith, we might obtain more miracles! We must pray to Blessed John Henry for an increase in faith and in good works—to help us be better witnesses and Apostles in our own time, as Blessed John Henry was in his.

### Sunday October 3rd: The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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| • 8.30 a.m. <i>Low Mass</i>                   | • 12.00 p.m. <i>(Families with young children)</i>  |
| • 9.30 a.m. <i>Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal</i> | • 5.30 p.m. <i>Sung Congregational English Mass</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>High Mass</i>                 | • 6.30 p.m. <i>Vespers and Benediction</i>          |

### Liturgical Calendar

*Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 3 in the Divine Office*

*Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary after the 12.45 & 5.45 p.m. Masses. (For Saturday: see over)*

*Holy Hour: Each Weekday from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.*

*October devotions at c. 6.05 p.m. each weekday. Benediction on Tuesday at 8 p.m.*

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

**Monday 4th October: St Francis of Assisi, Deacon. Memoria. (White)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.** • **Rosary at c. 1.05 p.m.**
- **October Devotions (including the Rosary) at 6.05 p.m.**

**St Francis of Assisi** (d.1226) As a rich young man, Francis heard God's call to him to "rebuild my Church", so renouncing his father's great wealth he became a beggar, gathering many followers who shared his love of holy poverty. Thus, the Friars Minor or "Franciscans" were founded and in 1212, with St Clare, the Poor Clares. Twice he made abortive attempts to be a missionary to the Moslems. He received the Stigmata on 14th September 1224, two years before his death. He was canonised in 1228.

**Tuesday 5th October: St Luigi Scrosoppi, Oratorian Priest. Memoria. (White)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.** • **Rosary at c. 1.05 p.m.**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.05 p.m. & Benediction at 8 p.m.**

**St Luigi Scrosoppi** (1804-1884) He became an Oratorian in his home city of Udine, North-Eastern Italy. Like his contemporary fellow Oratorian, Blessed John Henry, Cardinal Newman, his life spanned almost the entire 19th century, a time of great turmoil for Italy and the Church. He saw his Oratory suppressed firstly by Napoleon's French revolutionary forces, then restored, only to be suppressed permanently by the anti-clerical forces of Italian nationalism. P. Luigi bore these trials with great fortitude and succeeded in founding two religious orders of sisters to serve the poor and needy.

**Wednesday 6th October: FERIA. (Green) Optional memoria of St Bruno, Bishop. (White).**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.** • **Rosary at c. 1.05 p.m.**
- **October Devotions (including the Rosary) at 6.05 p.m.**

**St Bruno** (d. 1101) Founder of the Carthusians, the most austere of all monastic orders, he was a man of great humility, refusing several requests to become a bishop until Pope Urban II, a former pupil asked him to go to Rome as his adviser.

**Thursday 7th October: Our Lady of the Rosary. Memoria. (White)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.** • **Rosary at 1.05 p.m.**
- **October Devotions (including the Rosary) at 6.05 p.m.**

**Our Lady of the Rosary** recalls the victory won at Lepanto on this day in 1571 against the Turks, because so many Catholics prayed the Rosary at the request of Pope St Pius V.

**Friday 8th October: FERIA. (Green)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.** • **Rosary at c. 1.05 p.m.**
- **Solemn First Vespers of Blessed John Henry Newman at 6.15 p.m.**

**Saturday 9th October: Blessed John Henry Newman. Feast. (White)**

- **Low Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **Latin Low Mass (EF) at 9.30 a.m. in Bl John Henry's Shrine**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 – 10.45 a.m.**
- **11 a.m. Pontifical High Mass (celebrated by Bishop McGough)**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year) at 5.30 p.m. (new time)**

**Blessed John Henry Newman** was received on this date in 1845 into "the One Fold of the Redeemer" as he referred to the Catholic Church in his letters to friends announcing the news. It was an extraordinary act of faith made by one of the most influential Anglicans of his day, in which he lost not only status but friends and family, many of whom never spoke or wrote to him again. But he found peace in following God's light.

## **October 10th: the Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year: (Green)**

### **Mass & Service Times:**

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Low Latin Mass (1962 missal)**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass**
- **12.00 noon Family Mass**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational English Mass**
- **6.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction (please note new time)**

**Please pray for the sick** Patrick Turner, Jimmy Cunningham, Brenda Molloy, Josephine Spooner, Nick Usher-Somers, Ute Bowyer, Miles Drew, Ann Williamson, Jacqueline Griffiths, Harold Johnson, Elizabeth Friday, Carolyn Knight, Tony Colquoun, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Barbara Jarvis.

**Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently:** Ann O'Reilly and Patrick O'Donovan.

**and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Ignatius Ryder and Fr Anthony Pollen, both of this Oratory, Henry Aloysius Bowyer, John Roebuck, Cecilia Brunt, Peter Rushe, Rose & John Nulty, Rose Malynn, Patrick Martin, Angela Clarkson, Norah Maloney and Brian Moran.

**The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, October 9th/10th**  
**The Twenty-eighth Sunday**

**Saturday 5.45 p.m.:** Jenni Hardwick  
**Sunday 8.30 a.m.:** Murray Wilson-Browne  
**12.00 p.m.:** Dulcie Robinson  
**5.30 p.m.:** Brendan Cummins

### **Collections last week:**

**The Twenty-sixth Sunday:**  
**26th September, 2010**

**Offertory:** £1,895  
**Second Collection:** Fr Hudson's Society: £633  
**Organ (for shrine) Fund** £1,070

**Many thanks**

### **TODAY**

**THE SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend will be for the hungry and needy of the world (as Friday was 'Harvest Fast Day').

**RAFFLE TICKETS** will be on sale after all Masses for the Daughters of Divine Love, who are our Parish Visiting Sisters.

**THE PIETY STALL is now open on Saturdays, and after Sunday morning Masses and on Sunday afternoons. Medals, rosaries and other commemorative items of the beatification of Blessed John Henry Newman are on sale this weekend as is the Beatification Authorised Biography, together with books of Blessed John Henry's own writings.**

### **THIS WEEK**

**There will be a HOLY HOUR** from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** in the Cloister Chapel will take place this week on Wednesday and will commence with **Mass at 2.30 p.m.** and end with Benediction at c. 4.50 p.m.

**OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY** : Please remember that you can obtain a PLENARY INDULGENCE each day in October by praying five decades of the Rosary in Church (see 'October Devotions' below), or as a family or in a special group, or even a Partial Indulgence by praying fewer than five decades or by praying the Rosary on your own.

**OCTOBER DEVOTIONS continue each weekday evening IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 5.45 P.M. Mass, so at c. 6.05 p.m. They consist of the Rosary, a short meditation and Benediction. Note the new time of evening devotions and please do your best to attend!**

**CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE PRAYER SERVICE** takes place on Monday in the Town Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. The service will start at 6.30 p.m. and end at 7.15 p.m. Bishop McGough will attend.

**ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS** (21-35) will meet at 7.30 p.m. prompt on Thursday in the Oratory House. Fr Thomas Crean O.P. author of "A Catholic Replies to Professor Dawkins" will speak on that subject.

**The FIRST FEAST DAY OF BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN** will be on Saturday 9th October and will be celebrated with a Solemn High Mass at 11 a.m. The Celebrant will be Bishop McGough, auxiliary Bishop in our Diocese.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**FORTY HOURS:** Please note that our Forty Hours devotion takes place this year commencing on Tuesday 12th October.

**CANDLES FOR FORTY HOURS will be on sale next weekend.**

### **NOTICES**

**BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN'S SHRINE:** We are aiming to raise £18,000 to install a small organ in the chapel, more worthy of the setting and better suited to the purpose of enhancing worship there. We have hired one which we can only keep for another week. **Would anyone be willing to make an interest free loan of a thousand pounds or so to help us to buy one like it sooner?** Please see Fr. Guy. **OPENING TIMES OF THE SHRINE:** Please note that the shrine is open when the church is open. On Saturdays and Sundays, this will be all day. During the week, at present, the church will be open at usual times. (Generally, half to three-quarters of an hour before and after services.)

**STEWARDS:** many thanks to all those who volunteered as stewards during the time of the Beatification and the Pope's visit. We are also very grateful to those who have offered to continue as stewards for the foreseeable future.

**APF RED BOX HOLDERS:** The APF Year-End is 30th September and **all boxes** will need to be emptied. Please co-operate with your collectors in exchanging your red boxes over the next few weeks. **Many thanks.**