

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.

May 11th 2008: PENTECOST

THE END OF EASTERTIDE

Eastertide's final climax comes today with the Descent of God the Holy Spirit upon Our Lady and the Apostles together with the other disciples and the holy women. This celebration brings Eastertide to an end. But when we call it an "end", we don't really mean that Pentecost is merely the final moment, or conclusion of the Easter season—we mean much more. After all, Pentecost marks a wholly new *beginning*—the birth of the Church on earth. It was from this moment that the Apostles were changed for ever in their understanding of Our Lord—of His person and His mission—and began to share in that mission themselves by their preaching and their celebration of the Sacraments, as we will hear in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit therefore began the fulfilment of Our Lord's promise to the Apostles that *He would not leave them orphans but would come back to them*, (Jn 14:18) and that He *would send them another Comforter, the Spirit of Truth... who would guide them into all truth* (Jn 16:13) and *remind them of all that [Jesus] had taught them* (Jn 14:26). That descent of God the Holy Spirit continues throughout the ages and wherever the Church has been planted. It is the Holy Spirit, whom in the Creed we name *"the Lord and Giver of Life"*, who makes Christ present to us in the Sacraments. He it is who cleanses us from sin in baptism and confession, who strengthens us in confirmation, who changes bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Our Lord when the words of Jesus are spoken over them in Holy Mass. And because, as St. Paul teaches us, *"we do not know to pray as we ought, the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words."* (Rom 8:26) None of this would be possible unless the Lord had left the earth to go to His Father's side in glory, for as He said to the Apostles: *"It is good for you that I go, for if I do not go away the Counsellor will not come"* (Jn 16:7)

So the "end" of Eastertide is also the beginning of a new era: the era of the Church. Pope St. Leo the Great put it very well when he said that *"All that Christ was in*



His days on earth has now passed over into the Sacraments." This is the Holy Spirit's doing. It is therefore surely a pity that since 1970 Pentecost has become so brief! Being but a single day, as it is in the current calendar, it gives us so little opportunity to dwell in joy and gratitude on the greatness of God's gift to us of His Holy Spirit. We have all too short a time to ponder the variety and the richness of each of the Holy Spirit's seven gifts. For that reason we are taking advantage of the Pope's recent *Motu Proprio* allowing easier access to the pre-1970 form of the Mass, the now so-called "Extraordinary Form" of the Mass—by offering the chance to prolong the celebration of Pentecost with its ancient Octave. Just as Easter and Christmas are both extended by means of their "octaves" to last an entire week, so too Pentecost used to be celebrated in this way until the Calendar was changed in 1970. Therefore, even though "Ordinary Time" and green vestments will return in the Ordinary Form of Mass on Monday, we will continue the Whitsun or Pentecost Octave through to next Saturday at a special Holy Mass in the Extraordinary Form each morning at 8.30 a.m. Again, taking advantage of the Pope's suggestion in the *Motu Proprio*, because the scriptural readings at these Masses of the Octave of Pentecost are more varied and numerous than is usual elsewhere in the Old Rite, we will read them once only in English, rather than just in Latin, or in both Latin and English.

THE LORD AND GIVER OF LIFE

As mentioned above, we name the Holy Spirit *"Lord and Giver of Life"* in the Creed. This declaration reminds us that the gift of life itself is of God. God created us in His own image and likeness when He breathed the breath (or "spirit") of life into Adam and Eve, the first parents of the entire human race. This likeness is therefore not of our own making. We are not our own property. We belong to the One who has made us, and has made us especially to resemble Him. We must give an account of ourselves to Him one day. Therefore we hold all human life as sacred. This is why we are called upon to defend it against those who treat human life as "raw material" for grotesque scientific experiments. Please see the Notices about next Wednesday's lobby of Parliament and if you can please go with Fr. Simon Hall on his trip to Westminster to witness to Life.

Sunday May 11th: Pentecost (Red)

Year I or A of the Lectionary at Mass

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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>1962 rite Mass (in the church)</i> | • 5.30 p.m. <i>Sung Congregational Mass</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Solemn Vespers and Benediction</i> |

SIXTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME/OCTAVE OF WHITSUN: Liturgical Calendar

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 8.30 a.m. in the Extraordinary Form "Tridentine Rite" (Octave of Pentecost), 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

May 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.

<p>Monday May 12th: FERIA. (Green) Optional memorias of St Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs. (Red); Or of St Pancras, Martyr. (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. <p>St Nereus and St Achilleus were soldiers in the Roman military, probably in the elite Praetorian Guard. They are thought to have been baptised by St Peter, and following their conversion, they were exiled from Rome and eventually beheaded.</p> <p>St Pancras Little is known of him, other than his martyrdom at age fourteen, in 304 during the Diocletian persecutions. He became a popular saint in England after St Augustine dedicated his first church to him.</p> <hr/> <p>Tuesday May 13th: FERIA. (Green). Optional memoria of OUR LADY OF FATIMA. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction <p>Our Lady of Fatima: We commemorate the Appearance of Our Lady to three shepherd children on six consecutive occasions in 1917, commencing on 13th May. She exhorted that people make sacrifices, do penance, to pray for world peace and for the conversion of sinners. Referring to herself as the 'Lady of the Rosary', she particularly urged that people should say the Rosary every day.</p> <hr/> <p>Wednesday May 14th: St Matthias, Apostle. Feast. (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. <p>St Matthias: Following the Ascension, he was chosen by lot to fill the space among the Apostles left vacant by Judas Iscariot.</p> <hr/> <p>Thursday May 15th: FERIA. (Green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. <hr/> <p>Friday May 16th: FERIA. (Green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. <hr/> <p>Saturday May 17th: Our Lady on Saturday (White) or FERIA. (Green)</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 Pentecost 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 <p>First Mass of Sunday: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, at 5.45 p.m.</p> <p>EASTER DUTIES: please note that the time for making Easter Duties (confession and Holy Communion), which every practising Catholic is bound to do, comes to an end on Trinity Sunday, which is NEXT Sunday.</p>	<p>Sunday May 18th: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (White)</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. Solemn 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>Please pray for the sick Stephen Realf, Antonietta Boffa, Maria Papa, Desmond & Sheila Williams, Peter Young, Celia McHugh, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea, Vivian Beesley, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Cathal McGrory and Ellen Westwood.</p> <p>Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Rose & Arthur Hunt, Yvonne Beesley, Anthony Reilly, Melinda Cozzi and Catherine Wright.</p> <hr/> <p>The following are requested to read next weekend, May 17th/18th: Trinity Sunday Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin 12.00 p.m.: Peter Leather 5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey</p> <hr/> <p>Collections The Ascension (Transferred), 4th May: Offertory: £1,411 Second: Catholic Communications: £437 Thank you</p> <p>Second Collection today: Oratory Students' Training Fund</p>
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<p>TODAY</p> <p>The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall for First Holy Communion gifts & books, together with a wide selection of books, DVDs, CDs, statues etc., and Catholic newspapers. Come and see!</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>OCTAVE OF PENTECOST: MASS IN THE EXTRA-ORDINARY FORM (EF), or "Old Rite", will be celebrated each day, Monday to Friday this week at 8.30 a.m. Please note that in accordance with the Pope's suggestions concerning the EF Mass in <i>Summorum Pontificum</i>, the readings will be read once only in the vernacular.</p> <p>ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass of Whit Wednesday in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman rite at 2.30 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession around the grounds. <i>Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will be granted.</i></p> <p>MAY DEVOTIONS continue each weekday night, from Monday with Rosary at 7.45 p.m. followed by a short meditation about Our Lady, and ending with Benediction.</p> <p>HUMAN FERTILISATION BILL: You are urged to join the National Lobby of Parliament on Wednesday, 14th May from 12.30 p.m. onwards. This is a vital opportunity to tell your MP how strongly you oppose the introduction of: Animal/Human hybrid embryos, 'Saviour' siblings, the removal of Fatherhood and the other issues in the HFE Bill, including amendments to the abortion law. Please arrange to meet your MP in Parliament anytime from 12.30 p.m. onwards. (NB Even if your MP can't meet that day, it's vital you still go to London to leave cards/letters and to show your support). Refreshments, literature and an opportunity to meet pro-life MPs will all be at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, (5 minutes walk from Parliament), from 12.30 until the evening.</p> <p>Fr Simon Hall of St Teresa's, Perry Barr is organising coaches to take people to London. <i>Coaches will pick up promptly at St</i></p>	<p><i>Teresa's at 8 a.m., St Chad's at 8.15 and from St Augustine's Solihull at 8.45 a.m. To book please telephone Fr Hall on 356 4402 no later than Monday. Cost for the coach will be about £15.</i></p> <p>A PRAYER VIGIL against the Bill will take place at Newman House Catholic Chaplaincy, 29 Harrisons Road, on Monday, 12th, commencing with Holy Mass at 7.00 p.m. and will include Exposition, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. For more details ring Niamh on 07966765954</p> <p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>CORPUS CHRISTI is celebrated on Sunday 25th May. There are several important events connected with this great feast:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) On the previous Thursday, there will be a Solemn High Mass and Procession in the 1962 rite at 8 p.m. 2) On the Sunday itself, the children of the Oratory Primary School will make their First Holy Communion at 12 noon Mass. 3) That same Sunday afternoon, there will be an Outdoor Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 4 p.m. <p>VIGIL IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS & THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY will be held here on the night of Friday 30th May (the Feast of the Sacred Heart). High Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart will be at 8 p.m. The Vigil will commence immediately following.</p> <p>ASSOCIATION FOR LATIN LITURGY Spring Meeting at Gloucester on Saturday, May 31st, the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady. Includes Sung Mass at 12 noon and Vespers of Our Lady at 4.30 p.m. both in Gloucester Cathedral. Details are on the Notice Board. Price for day: £25. Telephone booking: 0115 950 4464. There may be some transport available; see Fr Guy.</p> <p>NOTICES</p> <p>APF BOX HOLDERS AND COLLECTORS—a BIG THANK YOU to you all! Your generosity has meant that, once again, the Oratory Parish is the top contributor to the APF in the Archdiocese. Particular thanks to Monica Hynes and her team of collectors: Gill Bowen, Edna Dean, Margaret Hawkins, Stephanie Hayward, Graeme Le Monier, Mary Pope and Michael Shiels.</p>
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