

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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

April 12th 2009: EASTER DAY

THE DARKNESS CANNOT OVERPOWER THE LIGHT

"This is the Day that the Lord has made—let us rejoice and be glad in it!" (ps. 117:24) Easter is the high point of the Church's year, towards which the first part of the year tends, and from which the remainder of the year flows.

When we celebrated the coming of Christ into the world at Christmas and its associated feasts, Epiphany and Candlemas, they were the preparation for Our Lord's "great work", for which He had been sent to earth by His heavenly Father. After Easter, the Ascension completes Christ's glorification as man in heaven, and Pentecost celebrates the sharing of all the graces Christ won for us by His death and resurrection through the coming of the Holy Spirit, whom the Father and Son send to us to make us holy.

Easter is the culmination of all that Christ came to do. All His teaching, all His miracles, are incomplete without His Passion, Death and Resurrection. And those three, Passion, Death and Resurrection, are all one. Easter does not reverse the tragedy of Christ's sufferings, but completes them. Christ does not even lose His wounds in His risen state, but shows them to the Apostles as trophies of His victory.

For whereas those wounds were truly terrible when inflicted upon Our Lord in His Passion, they have now become like jewels, glowing with light. Christ surrendered Himself to the powers of darkness for a short time, and those powers did appalling things to Him, as we have recalled during the last week, especially on Good Friday. But the Resurrection is a sign to us that the darkness cannot overpower the light of Christ's rising.

Yet this light is only visible to those who accept the gift of faith. Faith has been given to us in Baptism, but it is up to us to make that gift flourish. It is a sad fact that many people who have been blessed with the gift of faith do not make proper use of it. They do not see that Christ alone is "the Way, the Truth and the Life". They believe that they know better than Christ what is good, many even believe they know Our Lord's Will and intentions better than Our Lord Himself does!

Last night at the Easter Vigil, the climax of the entire year, we began by celebrating the irruption of light into the darkness, just as Christ was raised to

new life from the darkness of death and the grave. That light spread from the Easter Candle, representing Christ in glory, to each one of us present, who have been baptised into new life. Then having listened to God's wonderful works, from creation through Abraham and the Exodus, through the Prophets to Christ's resurrection, we celebrated the new life of the risen Christ in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, bringing to new birth more children of God destined for salvation.

Now we celebrate fifty days of continuous Easter joy, in thanksgiving to God for this gift of salvation which Christ has won for us by His death and resurrection, and looking forward to the endless joy of heaven promised to all those who love God faithfully in this life. Also, last night at the Vigil, we greeted the joyful light of our Saviour's rising to new life by singing once more the "Alleluia", absent from our lips throughout Lent.

Now our Lenten fast is over, for we have shared Christ's sufferings in them, and by His grace have been enabled to grow in love of God and neighbour, and so may lawfully enjoy the triumph of light over darkness, life over death, Christ over the devil, all achieved at Easter for us. As Cardinal Newman so eloquently puts it: **"They alone are able truly to enjoy this world, who begin with the world unseen. They alone enjoy it, who have first abstained from it. They alone can truly feast, who have first fasted; they alone are able to use the world, who have learned not to abuse it; they alone inherit it, who take it as a shadow of the world to come, and who for that world to come relinquish it."** (Parochial and Plain Sermons Vol. 6, no 7: "The Cross of Christ the Measure of the World")

Sunday April 12th: Easter Day (White)

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction |

EASTER WEEK: Liturgical Calendar

All Masses, Readings and Offices are of the Octave of Easter throughout the week. No saints are commemorated.

MONDAY: Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only. No evening Mass or Devotions

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

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

13th April: Easter Monday (of the Octave) (White) Bank Holiday
• Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only
• No evening Mass or Devotions

14th April: Easter Tuesday (of the Octave) (White)
• Benediction at 8 p.m.

15th April: Easter Wednesday (of the Octave) (White)

16th April: Easter Thursday (of the Octave) (White)

17th April: Easter Friday (of the Octave) (White)

18th April: Easter Saturday (of the Octave) (White)

19th April: Divine Mercy Sunday (Octave Day of Easter) (White)

Mass & Service Times:

- **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)**

2.00 p.m. Divine Mercy Devotion (see Notices)
• Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
• Confessions
• **4.30 p.m. Holy Mass**

- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Margaret Hawkins, John Rose, Katie Hayward, Mary Cunliffe, Carole Halls, Margaret Casey, Maria Constantinou, John McCann, Bobby Cunningham, Patrick Walshe, and Raymond Colquhoun.
Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Fr Stanley Jaki, George Saunders, Alf Cooke, Katherine Ross and Michael Toland.
and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Eugenio Cozzi, Margaret Brennan, Dee Parton, James O'Connor and Thomas Christie.

George Saunders funeral is on Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. Reception of remains: before Mass.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, April 18th/19th, Feast of the Divine Mercy (Octave Day of Easter):

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Margaret Hawkins
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

Palm Sunday: 5th April, 2009

Offertory: £1,510

Second: Maintenance of our Church: £896

Lenten Alms: £439

Good Friday: Holy Places: £1,004
Thank you

The Second Collection next Sunday (Feast of the Divine Mercy) will be for the Diocesan Development Fund

TODAY

The second collection today will be the Easter Offering to the Clergy of our Parish.

THE FATHERS AND BROTHERS OF THE ORATORY WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY EASTER!

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL takes place this week on **Wednesday**, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction.

The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB will resume on Easter Tuesday 14th April 12-2 pm to discuss the writings of Catholic Apologist Raymond De Souza. All women are welcome. Contact Mrs Jackie Parkes 0121 688 4154 rosary@blueyonder.co.uk for more details.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, April 19th, will be observed here by an afternoon of prayer, commencing at 2.30 p.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, during which there will be the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and Benediction. Mass will be at 4.30 p.m. Confessions will be heard throughout the afternoon from 2 p.m.

A Plenary Indulgence is attached to this Devotion, under the usual conditions, i.e. confession, communion and prayer for the Pope's intentions.

CONCELEBRATED MASS COMMEMORATING CARDINAL NEWMAN'S MINISTRY AT ST ANNE'S, ALCESTER STREET (1849-1852) will be offered on Wednesday, 22nd April at 7 p.m. by Bishop Gilles Cabazon, OMI, Emeritus Bishop of St. Jerome, Quebec, Canada. The Preacher will be Fr Paul. Mass will be followed by a Reception hosted by Trident Housing in Cherish House (opposite St. Anne's).

ASSOCIATION FOR LATIN LITURGY (ALL) is holding its annual Spring Meeting at Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, April 25th, beginning with Sung Mass at St. Joseph's Church at 12 noon. Lunch at a nearby hotel. In the Afternoon there will be a talk by Ian Wells on Catholic Churches in Stoke, concluding with Vespers at 4 p.m. Please see Fr. Guy if you are interested in going and would like transport.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION: a teacher training course is being held at the City Hospital, Dudley Road on Saturdays: May 9th, June 13th, July 11th and September 25th. Cost £60. Contact Dr Olive Duddy: 0161 787 8343 or oliveduddy@hotmail.co.uk

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION is holding its Annual Buffet in The Old Hall, St. Paul's School, Vernon Road on Saturday 16th May. Doors open at 12-30 for 1 p.m. meal. This is a TICKET ONLY event and tickets (price £11.50) must be bought in advance. Closing Date for Tickets is Saturday 25th April 2009.
ANCIENT CHRISTIAN ROME, a short series of illustrated talks will be given by Br. John Parker S.M., an expert in Christian Roman history and archaeology, on Saturday, May 9th and Sunday May 10th in the Cloister Buildings. Further information to follow.

NOTICES

PRO-LIFE CHAIN is being organised by SPUC to stand on the pavement of the Hagley Road near Five Ways on Saturday, 25th April from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The chain is a peaceful and silent vigil where the pro-life message is witnessed by hundreds of passing motorists. Please join the chain and show your support for a renewed culture of life in our country. More information can be obtained from Gill Bowen (tel. 0121 454 8517)

REDNAL GROUNDS DAY (Saturday, May 2nd). For all those who are normally involved, see Fr. Guy and let him know whether you can or cannot come. Please make your own transport arrangements. Food and drink supplied during the day as usual. We begin with Mass at 10 a.m. in the Chapel. Please pray for good weather!

PILGRIMAGES:

- 1) **WALSINGHAM:** Diocesan Pilgrimage, Saturday 9th May. Leaving the Oratory at 7.15 a.m., contact: Anne Roebuck tel. 0121 454 0130
- 2) **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**, Saturday 23rd May to 30th May. Prices: £589-£710. Please see the Notice Boards. Fr Guy has a couple of booking forms. As usual this conflicts with St. Philip's Day, so there will be no official Parish contingent.
- 3) **LOUGH DERG: St Patrick's Purgatory**, Thursday 18th June—Sunday 21st June. Details from Mgr. Tom Fallon at St Francis Church, Handsworth, B19 1EB. Bookings as soon as possible please.
- 4) **FATIMA**, 10th-17th July. £559 with Mgr. Tom Fallon. Tel 429 4145
- 5) **LOURDES:** 40th Anniversary Grand Order of Baby Sitters (GOBS) 21st-29th August 2009 - by luxury coach & ferry, Total cost £395, Deposit (non-returnable) £50 to book a place. Contact Maggie O'Rourke 01603443850 or Andrew Parkes 0121-688-4154

The CHOIR AT 5.30 MASS on Sundays welcomes new members. No previous experience of choir singing is necessary, nor ability to read music. Regular weekly attendance not essential. Simply turn up at 5 p.m. on any Sunday at the rear Organ gallery.