

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 25th 2009: THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



SIGHT RESTORED

There are several miracles recorded in the Gospels in which Our Lord gives sight to the blind. There are those like the man at the pool of Siloam in chapter 9 of St. John's Gospel, and the man at Bethsaida in St. Mark's Gospel (8:22-26) who were both blind from birth; and there are those like today's blind man of Jericho, who was not born blind but had somehow lost his sight.

In St. John's wonderful account of the man born blind which we hear on the Fourth Sunday of Lent once in every three years, Our Lord makes clear the parallel between blindness and sight on the one hand, and unbelief and belief on the other. The Pharisees who condemn Our Lord for giving sight to the blind man on the Sabbath Day are the truly blind, because they do not understand what Our Lord has done not only for the blind man, but for all

those, like the Apostles, who witnessed the gift of sight and the birth of faith in the man's grateful heart and mind.

There is another interesting variation in these miracles: the man at Bethsaida had received his sight *gradually*, beginning with Our Lord's application to the man's eyes of a paste made from earth and His own saliva. The blind man at Siloam received his sight after he went off at Our Lord's command to wash his eyes in the water. The restoration of the man's sight at Jericho in today's Gospel was, by contrast, apparently both immediate and instantaneous. Moreover, while only St. Mark tells us about the Bethsaida two-stage healing, the miracle at Jericho is recounted by all three "synoptic" evangelists, Matthew, Mark and Luke.

What else can we learn from today's Gospel? First, of the three Evangelists who recount this miracle, St. Mark alone tells us the blind man's name: "Bartimaeus" (that is *Son of Timaeus*). St. Mark usually tells us someone's name in the course of his Gospel only if it has some special relevance. For instance, Mark alone tells us that Simon of Cyrene was the father of Alexander and Rufus, who were clearly well known members of the early Church. It therefore seems reasonable to assume that Bartimaeus also was well known in the circles for whom Mark wrote his Gospel. It is always fascinating to catch glimpses of the continuity between our Lord's Public Ministry and the Church after Pentecost, for apart from Our Lady and the Apostles we do not hear of many other persons who had met Our Lord and then carried on as His followers in the early Church. In fact, Mark offers us a hint when he comments at the end of the story that "*he followed Him along the road*". So presumably he continued as Our Lord's follower or disciple ever afterwards.

We also learn from this Gospel reading that faith and healing go together. Bartimaeus used a very special title when he called out to Our Lord: "*Son of David!*" He recognised that Jesus was not *simply* the Carpenter's son from Nazareth. This is also very important because some commentators have assumed that such titles as this were not used by Jesus of Himself at all, but only applied to Him by the early Church. But of course, Bartimaeus *must* have known that Jesus was more than an ordinary man because no ordinary man could give a blind man his sight! Moreover, Bartimaeus knew that Jesus was not some kind of magician, but was endowed with God's kingly power. This is so because, according to the Prophets, David was the great King of Israel whose descendent, or Son, would be the Messiah (the Anointed One, or "*Christ*"). Thus, Bartimaeus already had faith in Christ, as Son of David. He now had the opportunity to put that faith into action. So when Our Lord asked him, "*what do you want me to do for you?*" he replied, "*Rabbuni*" (meaning "my Master"), *give me back my sight!*". Our Lord's answer was to tell him that "*his faith had saved him*". This does not mean that Bartimaeus could save himself, but that his faith was the opening for Our Lord to heal him.

Sunday October 25th: Thirtieth Sunday (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 Mass</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>Solemn High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Vespers and Benediction</i> |

THIRTIETH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 2

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

October Devotions (incl. Rosary) at 7.45 p.m..

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 26th October: Feria. (Green). *Optional memoria of St Cedd, Bishop. (White)*

- **October Devotions at 7.45 p.m.**

St Cedd (d.644) was a disciple of St Aidan at Lindisfarne, as was his brother, St Chad. As a priest, he was sent as a missionary to Essex and was so successful that he was appointed Bishop of the East Saxons. He founded many monasteries, churches and abbeys, including the great Abbey at Lastingham in Yorkshire, where he eventually retired. He was an interpreter at the Synod of Whitby and supported the adoption of Roman customs

Tuesday 27th October: Feria. (Green)

- **October Devotions at 7.45 p.m.**

Wednesday 28th October: Sts Simon & Jude, Apostles. (Red)

- **October Devotions at 7.45 p.m.**

Sts Simon & Jude (1st C.) Simon is called the "Zealot" in the Gospels to distinguish him from Simon Peter, and the name may be a reference to his earlier connection with the Jewish resistance movement to the Romans. Jude, whose name is abbreviated from Judas is also distinguished from Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, by the name "Thaddeus". Simon is said to have preached in Egypt and Persia. Jude is the author of an Epistle to the Eastern Church. He is the patron of desperate causes because his epistle stresses that the faithful should persevere in harsh and difficult circumstances. The saints are thought to have been martyred together in Persia (Iran).

Thursday 29th October: Feria (Green)

- **October Devotions at 7.45 p.m.**

Friday 30th October: Feria. (Green)

- **October Devotions at 7.45 p.m.**

Saturday 31st October: Our Lady on Saturday, (White); or Feria. (Green)

- **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 & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Solemnity of All Saints) at 5.45 p.m.**

November 1st: The Solemnity of All Saints. (White)

Mass & Service Times:

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

Please pray for the sick Frank Jones, Ray & May Colquhoun, John Aston, Brendan Cummins, May Roebuck, Paul Beesley, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, David Pritchard, Roger Beach, Teilo Hidden, James Foynes, Carolyn Knight, and Leroy McCoy.

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: Violet Hunt, John Acquaye and Angelo Gentilella.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, October 31st/November 1st, Solemnity of All Saints:

*Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney*

Collections:

*28th Sunday: 18th October, 2009
Offertory: £1,461
Second: APF: £821*

Thank you

TODAY

The Second Collection today will be for the **Expenses of Cardinal Newman's beatification.**

The PIETY STALL will be open after all Sunday Masses (including after Saturday evening Mass) *and also after the 11 a.m. Mass on Saturdays. Advent Calendars, Advent wreaths, Cribs, Christmas cards, diaries and other Christmas items are on sale*, including those we are selling on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need, **together with books, DVDs, Rosaries, statues etc.** Why not buy a Rosary or book as a Christmas gift, or perhaps one of our gift vouchers?

FR PETROC HOWELL'S golden jubilee of priestly ordination is today.. He will preach at Mass at St Patrick's at 10:30 am. An informal reception in St Patrick's school hall will follow. All welcome.

THIS WEEK

OCTOBER—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 specially formed group, or even a Partial Indulgence by praying fewer than five decades., or praying the Rosary on your own.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS take place from Monday to Friday at 7.45 p.m., and include the Rosary, a short meditation and Benediction.

BROTHERS OF THE LITTLE ORATORY meet on Tuesdays after Benediction in St Philip's Chapel. All men are welcome. Please see Fr Anton if you would like more information.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS also meets on Tuesday evenings after Benediction, in the Lower Cloister Hall. (It is not necessary to be a mother to be a member.)

ADORATION AT REDNAL with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Wednesday, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.40 p.m.

MORNING OF PRAYER AND WITNESS against abortion will take place on Saturday, 31st October commencing with Mass at 8 a.m., Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8.45, then walking to the Calthorpe (Abortion) Clinic in Arthur Road, and praying the Rosary for all those involved in abortion; returning to the Oratory for Benediction at 10.45. Refreshments will be available afterwards from the **WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION COFFEE MORNING** in the Lower Cloister Hall on Saturday 31st October from 11 a.m. Please give this your support as the proceeds are very much needed for the Association's work.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The SECOND COLLECTION next week will be for the **Johnson Fund** which cares for retired and sick clergy.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS: (Ages 20-35) The next meeting is on Thursday 5th November at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. The subject will be "Gunpowder, Treason and Plot".

NOTICES

EPIPHANY PRIZE DRAW: Once again we will be offering a 1st prize of £500 and a 2nd of £100 and **we would be grateful for donations of cash!** Please address to Fr Guy.

SACRISTAN: The fathers are seeking to employ a new sacristan for the Oratory Church from the beginning of December. Please send your application **in writing** including your CV, to Fr Paul or Fr Anton at the Oratory House, marking the envelope "Sacristan". Please note that the post is open only to single males as it is a necessity that the person living in to carry out the duties of the position.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

I still treasure the memory of the first parish priest at whose side I exercised my ministry as a young priest: he left me an example of unreserved devotion to his pastoral duties, even to meeting his own death in the act of bringing viaticum to a gravely ill person. I also recall the countless confreres whom I have met and continue to meet, not least in my pastoral visits to different countries: men generously dedicated to the daily exercise of their priestly ministry. Saint John Vianney also makes us think of Christ's pierced Heart and the crown of thorns which surrounds it. I also think, therefore, of the countless situations of suffering endured by many priests, either because they themselves share in the manifold human experience of pain or because they encounter misunderstanding from the very persons to whom they minister. How can we not also think of all those priests who are offended in their dignity, obstructed in their mission and persecuted, even at times to offering the supreme testimony of their own blood?