

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School: web.oratory.bham.sch.uk



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

June 8th 2008: THE TENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

THE CALLING OF ST. MATTHEW



Today St. Matthew tells us in his own words about his calling by our Lord to be an Apostle. For those who know the painting of this scene by Caravaggio, which is to be found in the Church of St. Louis of France in Rome, it is impossible to think of this event without seeing this picture in their mind's eye. Matthew describes it in a very simple and unadorned way, yet one that leaves a great deal to the imagination.

Whereas Andrew, Simon Peter, James and John were fishermen, and the other Simon was a Zealot, or former insurrectionist against the Romans, we know nothing of the previous life of any of the other Apostles.

Matthew, also known as Levi, must have seemed to many at the time of his calling to have been the most unlikely to be chosen by Our Lord. He was a tax-collector—a way of life deeply hated by his fellow Jews since it involved co-operation with the occupying power for personal gain. A tax-

collector was not only granted a license to gather the taxes from the local people on behalf of the Romans but was allowed to take his "cut" as a perk. So they were judged to be not only "collaborators" but also self-servers, lining their own pockets at their fellow-citizens' expense. No wonder they were so unpopular!

Matthew records the celebration which he held to mark this enormous change in his life. He invited his friends, the other local tax-collectors and various public "sinners" whom the respectable folk shunned with distaste, even hatred. Yet Our Lord neither shunned nor hated them. He ate with them and so earned the Pharisees' wrath and contempt. They throw this challenge in the face of Jesus's other disciples: "Why does your master eat with tax-collectors and sinners?" What kind of rabbi is He, then? Look at the disreputable company He keeps! So it is that Jesus Himself replies to the Pharisees: "It is not the healthy who need the doctor. Go and learn the meaning of the words: 'what I want is mercy, not sacrifice'. And indeed I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners".

It is the drama behind these words which Caravaggio captures in this wonderful painting. We see Jesus suddenly breaking with a sharp beam of light into this darkened room of men hunched over their pile of 'filthy lucre'. Jesus's outstretched finger points commandingly at Matthew who responds with amazement and an incredulous finger pointing back at himself in echo of Our Lord's hand, as though he is saying, "Who? Me? Surely not!" The two older men are so absorbed in the money that they fail even to notice Our Lord, but the two younger men, flooded in the light passing from Jesus towards Matthew, are caught up with puzzlement at the sudden appearance of Our Lord and His companion who are dressed humbly, unlike the expensive and worldly garb of Matthew's companions.

St. Matthew's calling reminds us of Our Lord's words elsewhere to His disciples: "You have not chosen me, it is I who have chosen you". This most unlikely Apostle was to become the writer of the First Gospel and a martyr for love of Christ.

Sunday June 8th: Tenth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. 1962 rite Mass (in the church) | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction |

TENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Monday to Friday:

Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Friday at 8 p.m. in Honour of the Sacred Heart

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

<p>Monday June 9th: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of <i>St Ephraim</i>, Deacon. (White); or of <i>St Columba</i>, Abbot. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m. <p>St Ephraim was born in Mesopotamia in c.303 into a Christian family. He became a monk and theologian and was also a poet. He used this latter talent particularly in the writing of hymns, composed mostly to combat heresies. He was also a prolific writer on Scripture. He died in 473 and is a Doctor of the Church.</p> <p>St Columba (521-597) An Irish monk, he set sail on a mission to become 'a pilgrim for Christ' and landed on Iona where he built the monastery which was to become world famous. With his companions, he travelled extensively through Scotland and the North converting many. He founded several monasteries and developed a monastic rule which many followed prior to the introduction of the Rule of St. Benedict. Several miracles were attributed to him during his life. He died at Iona.</p>	<p>Sunday June 15th: The Eleventh Sunday of the Year (Green)</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. 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>Tuesday June 10th: Feria. (Green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benediction at 8 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction 	<p>Please pray for the sick: Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea and Cathal McGrory. 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: Fr Paul Eaglesim, Fr Francis Morgan and Fr Denis Shiel all of this Oratory, Thomas Reeves, Nell Carter, John & Rose Nulty, Pat Ahern, Michael Ahern and Gerald Healy.</p>
<p>Wednesday June 11th: St Barnabas, Apostle. Memoria. (Red)</p> <p>St Barnabas: An Apostle, though not one of the twelve, and a Cypriot Jew named Joseph, he sold his property and gave the proceeds to the Apostles, who gave him the name Barnabas (which means: "Son of Encouragement"). It was he who introduced St Paul to the other Apostles. He went with Paul to Antioch, Syria and to Cyprus and beyond. Eventually, he returned to Cyprus and is esteemed to be the founder of the Church there. It is thought that he was martyred at Salamis.</p>	
<p>Thursday June 12th: Feria. (Green)</p>	
<p>Friday June 13th: St Anthony of Padua. Priest & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benediction in Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8 p.m. <p>St Anthony of Padua (1195-1231) He was born of a noble Portuguese family in Lisbon, but gave up his wealthy lifestyle and embraced poverty as a Franciscan friar. His great wish was to be a missionary and he was sent to work amongst the Moslems in Morocco. However, ill health forced his return to Europe and he settled in Italy. It was soon discovered that he had not only a remarkable knowledge of the bible, but also an outstanding talent for preaching. Depictions of him are often of a rather 'soft' looking young man. However, he was strong, merciless and fearless against lax clergy and oppressors of the defenceless, and was known in his lifetime as 'the hammer of the heretics'.</p>	<p>The following are requested to read next weekend, June 14th/15th: Eleventh Sunday of the Year:</p> <p>Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne 12.00 p.m. Peter Leather 5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney</p>
<p>Saturday June 14th: 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 St Philip's Day 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: Eleventh Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m. 	
	<p>Collections</p> <p><i>The Ninth Sunday of the Year, 1st June:</i> Offerstory: £1,422 Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £415 Thank you</p> <p>Second Collection today: Church maintenance</p> <p>Today the White Flower Collection for SPUC will be taken up after Mass</p>

<p>TODAY</p> <p>SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) WHITE FLOWER COLLECTION will be taken after all Masses. Also, copies of the new edition of the Pro-Life Times are available, free, at the Church Doors today.</p> <p>The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall. (New books and DVDs are in stock)</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>"THE SIEGE OF JERICHO" This year will take place from Monday, 9th to Sunday 15th June. From Monday to Saturday, there will be Mass here at 3 p.m. which will be followed by a procession, led by a priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament on his person, beginning at the Calthorpe (abortion) Clinic in Arthur Road. The Rosary will be said along the way. On Sunday 15th June, there will not be an extra Mass, but a Solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament (exposed) will take place around the clinic, commencing at 2 p.m. in Arthur Road. We hope you will make your best effort to be there. For those who cannot take part, please support us with your prayers.</p> <p>ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday morning due to the 'Siege of Jericho' (see above) on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 9.30 a.m. The hearing of the Appeal for the overturning of the local Planning Authority's consistent refusal to allow the fence will take place on June 24th. Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will finally be granted.</p> <p>BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART is on Friday at 8 p.m.</p> <p>WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION COFFEE MORNING: You are all welcome to attend this which takes place next Saturday, 14th, after the 11.00 a.m. Mass.</p>	<p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>EX CATHEDRA CONCERT: <i>Parisienne</i> Vespers by candlelight takes place in our church on Wednesday 18th June. Please note, we do not take bookings. Ticket enquiries: 0121 236 4455.</p> <p>THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES, HEDNESFORD takes place on Sunday 6th July, commencing with Rosary at 3 p.m. Mass at 4 p.m. will be followed by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and blessing of the sick. For full details, including directions to get there, see the poster in the cloisters.</p> <p>THE LATIN MASS SOCIETY is celebrating its annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Winefride at Holywell, North Wales, on Sunday, July 6th with a Solemn High Mass at 2.30 p.m. See the poster for details.</p> <p>ECUMENICAL SONGS OF PRAISE organised by our local Council of Churches will take place on Sunday July 6th at St. George's Anglican Church, Edgbaston, at 6.30 p.m. We are asked to provide three volunteers: 1) a reader; 2) TWO persons to choose one favourite hymn each, and who will be prepared to explain their choices in a few brief words. Please drop a note to Fr Guy <u>by next Wednesday (11th June)</u> if you are willing to do this on behalf of our Parish.</p> <p>NOTICES</p> <p>REDNAL GROUNDS DAY. On Saturday, July 5th (weather permitting) we would like to invite volunteers to come to Rednal and help to do some basic work clearing the paths and trimming bushes etc. under the expert guidance of our gardener, Glenn Fraser. Food and drink will be provided during the course of the day. There will be a list at the Church doors <u>next week</u> for volunteers to sign up and indicate if they can also bring their own gardening tools.</p> <p>SERVERS are wanted for the Sunday 8.30 a.m. Mass. Please see Fr. Paul. READERS are also needed for Saturday evening and all Sunday Masses.</p>
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