

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.

January 24th 2010: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



ST. LUKE THE GOSPEL WRITER

The Gospel passage at Mass today begins with the opening verses of the Gospel according to St. Luke which we had already begun to hear read at Mass from the beginning of the new liturgical year on the First Sunday of Advent. During Advent and Christmastide we heard much of the opening two chapters of St. Luke's Gospel which concern the Annunciation and the Birth of our Lord and His earliest years.

What we hear today is the opening sentence which prefaces the entire Gospel, followed immediately by St. Luke's account of the beginning of our Lord's public ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth in chapter 4.

In that opening sentence, which is a short prologue of four verses, St. Luke announces to a certain Theophilus, who is an otherwise unknown early Christian, that he intends to write a complete narrative of the life and works of Our Lord from the accounts of those who had been eyewitnesses of the events he narrates. Luke's declaration is itself interesting in that he proposes to write as a true historian, determined to check the facts and put them in good order.

This is quite in accordance of what we know about St. Luke. Unlike all the other writers of the Scriptures, Luke was not a Jew, but a Greek convert. Moreover, he seems to have been a well-educated man whom St. Paul refers to as the "beloved physician" or doctor. The beautiful and sophisticated style of his Greek writing suggests that he was familiar with the great Greek historians Herodotus and Thucydides.

We then move on from this short introduction to the account of Our Lord's first return to Nazareth after His Baptism. His public ministry had now begun. Here He was among His fellow-townsfolk reading aloud a famous prophecy from Isaiah in the synagogue on the Sabbath Day and telling them that this scripture was now being fulfilled in their presence. Indeed, all that Our Lord will do henceforth is "to fulfil the Scriptures".

We also remember from our readings back in Advent and at Christmas that St. Luke is above all others the evangelist who tells the Gospel of Our Lord's earliest days from His Blessed Mother's viewpoint. Since only she can have known the facts related by Luke, doubtless he consulted her carefully about all that he went on to write about Our Lord's infancy. This is why Luke is often portrayed, as in this beautiful picture by the great Dutch artist Rogier van der Weyden, as the evangelist who paints a wonderful "word-picture" of our Blessed Lady.

THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

Monday is the feast of this great event, in which Saul the Pharisee and persecutor of the Church was struck from his horse outside the gates of Damascus and heard a voice addressing him: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?". Blinded by the light and yet recognising the power and authority of the voice, Saul asked, "who are you, Lord?" The voice replied, "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me!" From this moment Saul fully accepted: a) that Jesus was indeed God the Lord; b) that He was not dead but alive in glory; and c) that He identifies Himself with His suffering Church.

As well as St Paul's own account of all this in the first chapter of his Letter to the Galatians, we have two accounts by St. Luke in his second book, "The Acts of the Apostles", which Luke narrates himself in chapter 9, and puts into St. Paul own mouth in a speech in chapter 26.



Sunday January 24th: The Third Sunday of the Year (Green)

- **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**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

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 at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Tuesday. 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 25th January: Conversion of St Paul. Feast. (White)

- Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m.

Tuesday 26th January: Sts Timothy and Titus. Memoria. (White)

- Benediction at 8 p.m.

St Timothy and St Titus (1st cent) were disciples and companions of St Paul and were appointed Bishops of Ephesus and Crete respectively. Three of St Paul's letters were written to them to aid their work as "successors of the Apostles".

Wednesday 27th January: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of St Angela Merici, Virgin. (White); or of Bl Edward Oldcorne, English Martyr. (Red)

St Angela Merici (1474-1540) A Franciscan tertiary, she started the Ursulines, dedicated to the education of girls. Although not an Order in itself in her lifetime, it was the first group of religious women to work outside the cloister.

Bl Edward Oldcorne (d. 1606) Born in York, he studied at the English College in Rome before joining the Jesuits. He came to Worcester where he worked very successfully, winning converts not only by 'usual' methods but also through prayer and fasting. When he was eventually caught, he was taken to London and racked. He was hanged at Worcester on 7 April together with his servant, Blessed Ralph Ashley.

Thursday 28th January: St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

St Thomas Aquinas (1226-74) Born into a noble family, he was educated by the Benedictines at Monte Casino where he showed great promise from an early age, both spiritually and academically. Against his family's wishes, he joined the Dominicans when only seventeen. After his profession he studied in Cologne under St Albert the Great, and soon became a teacher and writer working in universities at Paris, Rome and Naples. Despite his great learning (and undoubtedly he is one of the greatest theologians) he was a humble and prayerful man. He died on his way to take part in the Council of Lyons.

Friday 29th January: Feria. (Green)

Saturday 30th January: Blessed Sebastian Valfré, Oratorian Priest. Memoria. (White)

- Mass at 8 a.m.
- Sung Mass at 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 (The Fourth Sunday of the Year) at 5.45 p.m.

Bl Sebastian Valfré (1629-1710) One of the most important members of the Piedmontese clergy, he was born Verduno into a poor family. Despite this he studied at Turin, joining the Oratory there and gained a doctorate in theology. He became the most sought-after confessor of the City and his tireless work led him to be dubbed as the "Apostle of Turin". His influence at Court enabled him to do much for the poor of the city. He was greatly devoted to the Shroud of Turin.

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND and next will be for the **ACN (Aid to the Church in Need) Haiti appeal**

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses (including after the Saturday 5.45 p.m. Mass) The 2010 Diocesan Directory is on sale and all 2010 calendars (on sale this Sunday & next) are reduced in price.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week. However, instead, we will have Adoration on Monday in the Cloister Chapel, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. followed by Exposition and ending with Benediction at c.4.45 p.m.

BROTHERS OF THE LITTLE ORATORY meet on Tuesdays after Benediction in St Philip's Chapel. All men are welcome.

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.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (ages 20-35) will meet on Thursday 4th February at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. The talk will be on the Occult & will be given by Fr Hugh Sinclair, the Diocesan Exorcist.

January 31st: The Fourth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Mass & Service Times:

- 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 in English**
- 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Connie Hayward, Tony Colqhoun, Tony Farmer, Philip Kilroy, Pat Cartwright, Leroy McCoy, Carolyn Knight, David Pritchard, James Foynes, Michael McCann and Philip McCann.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently:

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Eldred Leslie, Margaret Allen, Teresa Power, Peter Wright, Lilian Powell, Josephine Davies, Hugo Ramsey, Mary Ahern, Noreen Wilton, Nora Quinlan and Minnie Saxon.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, January 30th/31st, The Fourth Sunday of the Year:

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.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

The second Sunday of the Year: 17th January, 2010

Offertory: £1,542
Second: DDF: £481

Thank you

The ANNUAL MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place on Saturday, February 6th at 11 a.m. Forms for those eligible and who wish to receive the Sacrament are available at the doors of the church. Lunch will be available after Mass at a cost of £5. This must also be booked by completion of the appropriate section of the form. **Please return forms by next Sunday, 31st January.**

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH will meet on Saturday 6th February at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House. All are welcome.

NOTICES

CONFIRMATION: the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered by Bishop Pargeter on Wednesday March 17th at 7 p.m. Anyone wishing to receive the Sacrament, or any who wish their children (aged nine or over) to receive the Sacrament should see Fr Guy as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made for instruction by the Parish catechist.

SERVERS: volunteers are wanted for all Sunday (and weekday) Masses. Training will be given. Please see one of the Fathers.

READERS are also required. Please give your name, telephone number and email address in writing to one of the Fathers.

The EPIPHANY PRIZE DRAW: Please check the list of winners & collect your prize from the Lower Cloister Hall after Sunday Masses, or telephone the Oratory House (normal office hours) to arrange for collection.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

The Curé of Ars dealt with different penitents in different ways. Those who came to his confessional drawn by a deep and humble longing for God's forgiveness found in him the encouragement to plunge into the "flood of divine mercy" which sweeps everything away by its vehemence. If someone was troubled by the thought of his own frailty and inconstancy, and fearful of sinning again, the Curé would unveil the mystery of God's love in these beautiful and touching words: "The good Lord knows everything. Even before you confess, he already knows that you will sin again, yet he still forgives you. How great is the love of our God: he even forces himself to forget the future, so that he can grant us his forgiveness!".