

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 10th 2009: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE FORTY DAYS' TEACHING

The Gospels of these remaining Sundays in Eastertide until the Ascension are representations of the "40 days' teaching" which St. Luke tells us Our Lord gave His Apostles after the Resurrection (cf. Acts 1:3). In fact, these Sunday Gospel passages we hear today and over the next few weeks are taken from the long discourse Our Lord gave to the Apostles at the Last Supper as recorded by St. John in his Gospel.

If we have now moved on to a time beyond Christ's death and resurrection, why are we returning to the teaching Our Lord gave *before* His death? Is it simply because there are too few indications of what kind of teaching Our Lord did in fact give His Apostles after Easter? Not exactly. It is true that there is little in the Gospels to tell us what Our Lord said during the days between Easter and His Ascension to heaven. Yet that is not the main reason for returning to the Last Supper discourse.

The key is to be found in the Last Supper itself. There Our Lord told His Apostles: *"I still have many things to say to you, but they would be too much for you now"* (Jn 16:12). The Apostles could not take in everything Our Lord had to say on that momentous night. Neither can we. That is why, for instance, we keep the feast of Corpus Christi after the end of Eastertide, because we could not take in all the wonderful implications of the Mass, the Priesthood and the Blessed Sacrament on the night of their institution, as events rush headlong into the Arrest, the trial and the Passion and death of Our Lord. We need to return to them with time to ponder their depths.

The Apostles also needed to do exactly the same as we do with all that Our Lord had said on that night. It was indeed *"too much for them"* then, as Our Lord had warned them. St. John wrote His Gospel over many long years of reflection and prayer. He was the youngest of the Apostles, and the last one to die as a very old man around the year 100 A.D. His gospel was the last fruit of his lifetime of pondering on the wonderful mysteries he had been called to witness, and of the teachings he had himself heard from Our Lord's lips. We know that he had not done this alone, but had spent many of those later years praying with our Lady, whose protector he had become at the foot of the cross (Jn. 19:26-27). Her own lifetime of *"pondering on these things"* (Lk 2: 19 and 51) had enabled her to share the fruits of her contemplation with St. John. He in turn passed these on to his own followers, who bore witness to the truth of his teaching at the very end of the Gospel (Jn. 21:24).

St. John, therefore, in His account of the Last Supper, writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Who, Our Lord said, "will guide you into the complete truth" (Jn 16:13). When St. John recalls Our Lord's teaching on that great night, given at the first Holy Mass, he remembers it all in the light of the resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which were the fruit of that sacrifice. Hence St. John's account can be seen to be a distillation of all Our Lord's final teachings to His Apostles, from the Last Supper *and* from the Forty Days which followed the Resurrection.

CHRIST IS THE VINE

So today, therefore, Our Lord describes Himself as "the Vine" in an image drawn from chapter 15 of St. John's Gospel. New stems can be grafted onto an older stock and the new will draw nourishment from the old. So it is that we are grafted onto Christ and so, as St. Paul says, *"it is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me"* (Galatians 2:20). It is by Christ's own blood that we are fed and nourished in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For we receive Him whole and entire, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, whenever we receive Holy Communion either under the form of bread or under the form of wine. He is fully present in either.



Sunday May 10th: The Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

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

FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 1

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

May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. (including the Rosary)

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

Monday, 11th May: Monday of Easter Week 5. (White)

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

Tuesday, 12th May: Tuesday of Easter Week 5 (White) Optional memorias of St Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs. (Red); or of St Pancras, Martyr. (Red)

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

Sts Nereus & Achilleus These Roman soldiers were martyred in 304 for converting to Christianity. St Philip Neri himself received their relics with joy on the occasion of the consecration of the Roman Oratory, the *Chiesa Nuova*, where they are still revered.

St Pancras Also martyred in 304 during the persecution of the Church by the Emperor Diocletian, he became a very popular saint in England after St Augustine of Canterbury dedicated a church in Canterbury to him, though little is known of his life. The London railway station named after him was built on the site of another church which had been dedicated to him.

Wednesday, 13th May: Wednesday of Easter Week 5. (White). Optional memoria of Our Lady of Fatima. (White)

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

Our Lady of Fatima: In 1917, Our Lady appeared on six consecutive occasions, from May to October, to three shepherd children in Fatima, at a small place called the *Cova d' Iria* (Cave of Peace) She exhorted that people make sacrifices, do penance, and pray for world peace and the conversion of sinners. Referring to herself as the "Lady of the Rosary", she particularly urged that we should all say the Rosary every day.

Thursday, 14th May: St Matthias, Apostle. Feast. (Red))

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

St Matthias He was elected by the Apostles, by lot, to replace Judas Iscariot. He had been a follower of Our Lord and of the Apostles and was a witness to the truth of the Resurrection. He was also present at the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Our Lady and the Apostles at Pentecost.

Friday, 15th May: Friday of Easter Week 5. (White).

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

Saturday, May 16th: Saturday of Easter Week 5. (White)

- **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 (Sixth Sunday of Easter) at 5.45 p.m.**

17th May: Sixth Sunday 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. Latin 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 Sr Francis Clare, Pat Healey, David Dearn, John Shaw, May Poppins, John Rose, Bobby Cunningham, Katie Hayward, Mary Cunliffe, Margaret Casey, John McCann, Patrick Walshe, Raymond Colquhoun and Elizabeth Friday.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Veronica Farmer and Mary Margaret Devlin;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Melinda Cozzi, Yvonne Beesley, Joan Murphy, Philip Drew and Anthony Reilly.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, May 16th/17th, The Fourth Sunday of Easter:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Morag Marinoni
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

Fourth Sunday of Eastertide: 3rd May, 2009
Offertory: £1,217
Second: Diocesan Priests' Training Fund: £619
Thank you

TODAY

ILLUSTRATED TALK on CATACOMBS will take place this afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Upper Cloister Hall. *Part A Why Christians used Catacombs Part B What we find in the Catacombs.*

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, *except* after the Saturday evening Vigil Mass.

THIS WEEK

MAY DEVOTIONS continue each weekday evening starting at 7.45 p.m. with the Rosary, followed by a short meditation about Our Lady and ending with Benediction.

BROTHERS OF THE LITTLE ORATORY meet on Tuesday evening in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction (approx 8.30 p.m.).

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will take place as usual this week on Wednesday, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.45 p.m.

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HANDSWORTH NOVENA to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour from Monday 11th- Wednesday 20th May. Please see the poster for details.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: The next meeting will be in Edgbaston on 20th May from 2—4 p.m. when the speaker will be Raymond De Souza and the topic *Mysterium Fidei*. Raymond is the Founder and Director of Saint Gabriel Communications, Australia's first international outreach promoting Catholic Apologetics. He is also the Chairman of the New Evangelization Office of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the United States and EWTN program host. All women are welcome. For more details contact Jackie Parkes: 688 4154.

Our MAY PROCESSION will take place on Sunday 24th May (Ascension Sunday) at 4 p.m.



THE NOVENA FOR ST. PHILIP'S DAY will take place from Sunday 17th May, which will be joined with May Devotions on weekdays at 8 p.m.

ST. PHILIP'S DAY celebrations begin with Solemn First Vespers at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th May, and conclude with Pontifical High Mass, at which the Celebrant and Preacher will be John Cardinal Foley, on Tuesday 26th May at 7 p.m.

ASCENSION DAY is now officially celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (May 24th), but as is now customary, we will also be celebrating a Solemn High Mass of the Ascension on the former feast day, Thursday, May 21st at 8 p.m.

THE NOVENA FOR PENTECOST, which begins on Friday, May 22nd, will be joined with May Devotions on weekdays at 8 p.m.

NOTICES

APF RED MISSION BOX HOLDERS: Several boxes remain in the sacristy awaiting collection to replace those which you left for your collector; we would be grateful if you would collect them. Also we are looking for volunteers to become Collectors, and for a Promoter (the person who co-ordinates the collections overall). Please contact Monica Hynes on 427 2039 if you are willing and able to spare some time for these worthwhile activities.

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