

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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August 1st 2010: EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ENVY, GREED AND FEUDING

In today's Gospel we hear about a man who approached Our Lord and asked him to intervene in a row he was having with his brother over their father's will. Typically, Jesus replies to the man by asking him a question: "Who appointed me judge over your claims, or arbitrator between you and your brother?" This is not simply an "escape" clause, so to speak. Our Lord knew perfectly well that any decision He might make would in all probability displease one or even both the parties, and that they would then only look out for someone else to appeal to for a further decision, and so on.

We can tell that Our Lord is not simply avoiding getting embroiled in an acrimonious family feud, because He takes the opportunity to speak about the implications of what these two brothers are doing.

The parable of the rich man with an excessively good harvest can be applied to any situation. Here Our Lord draws the picture of a man who has so much produce from his farm that he decides to pull down his old barns because they are now too small to take all his grain. He decides to build even bigger barns and set more and more produce aside in them and have a really easy life. Being prosperous is a blessing, but also brings a danger with it. Not so many years ago most of us were less well-off than we are now. As we have

gradually amassed more and more of this world's goods, how has it affected us? Are we better or worse for what we own? Isn't there a tendency for thoughts of what to do with our property taking us over and dominating all our concerns? Don't we often find ourselves, almost unconsciously, thinking more about mortgages, another (bigger) car, a house in a better neighbourhood, a large-screen HD Television, holidays several times a year, etc.? We can all add to the list!

Nowhere does Our Lord say that such things are *necessarily* bad in themselves—except insofar as they can destroy our sense of priority. How does He make His point? By stating a simple and obvious, but also very disturbing truth.

He tells us about this rich man with an enviable amount of property which he thinks will keep him very comfortable in easy and relaxed circumstances for many years to come, and then says, "Fool! This very night you are going to die and meet your Creator and Judge. What good will all your property be to you then?"

Of course it's usually the case that people are not comfortable with the thought of death. It is rightly said to be the great taboo left in our society. Watch TV, listen to the radio, read any magazine you like. Where will you find a mention of death as the end of ALL our lives? What a morbid thought, we might exclaim! Sudden and unexpected deaths, especially of young people, make the news. But how often do we think that it really might happen to us, tonight, tomorrow, next week?

What Our Lord is teaching us today is that our natural tendency to plan for our lives as though they were going on for ever is made even stronger when we amass more and more goods, when we become more and more prosperous. The story of the rich man who dies suddenly and unexpectedly, leaving all his goods behind—all utterly useless to him after death—is like several of Our Lord's other parables about wealth and riches. His final lesson sums them all up: "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.

CARDINAL NEWMAN'S SHRINE

Many thanks to those who have already given money towards the redecoration of St. Philip's Chapel, which we hope will be completed in time for the Pope to inaugurate it on September 19th immediately after beatifying Cardinal Newman at Cofton Park, Rednal.

We have now raised about £11,000 towards the total of £45,000. If you have not already contributed, please do so! Think what a joy it will be in future years to say that some of your money went into making something seen for the first time, and blessed, by the presence of the Pope himself.

Sunday August 1st: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (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>Low Mass</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Vespers and Benediction</i> |

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 2 in the Divine Office

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary 7.45 p.m. (for Saturdays: see over)

Holy Hour: Each Weekday from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Benediction on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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

Monday 2nd August: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of *St Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop.* (White); or of *St Peter Julian Eymard, Priest.* (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.** • **Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m.**

St Eusebius (d.371) He supported the great Bishop Athanasius in his fight for orthodoxy against the Arian heretics who denied that Our Lord is God. For this, like Athanasius, he suffered exile from his see in Vercelli, in Northern Italy.

St Peter Julian Eymard (d. 1868) A French priest, he founded the Blessed Sacrament Fathers to advance devotion to Our Lord, truly present in the Eucharist.

Tuesday 3rd August: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.** • **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 4th August: St John Vianney, Priest. Memoria. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St John Vianney—the Curé of Ars - (1786-1859) He was not gifted academically and struggled with his studies for the priesthood. Once ordained, he was sent to Ars, the poorest parish in his diocese. At this time, following the anti-Catholic French Revolution, the laity had become demoralised, but by simple, profound teaching, he encouraged people back to the sacraments. His reputation rapidly spread and he became a much sought-after confessor and spiritual director.

Thursday 5th August: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of *The Dedication of St Mary Major.* (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

The Dedication of St Mary Major: The Basilica of Our Lady in Rome was built in her honour after the Council of Ephesus declared that She is no less than the "Mother of God". It is the oldest church dedicated to Our Lady in the Christian West, and one of the four major basilicas in Rome (hence the title: "St Mary Major").

Friday 6th August: The Transfiguration of Our Lord. Feast. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

The Transfiguration: We commemorate today the occasion when Our Lord took St Peter, James and John to the summit of Mt Tabor, where He was transfigured in heavenly light while praying in their midst.

Saturday 7th August: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or *Feria.* (Green). Optional memorias of *St Sixtus II, Pope, & his Companions, Martyrs.* (Red); or of *St Cajetan, Priest.* (White)

- **Low Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **(Nb. No Tridentine Mass at 9.30 a.m. until shrine is finished)**
- **Low Mass at 11 a.m.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time) at 5.45 p.m.**

Pope St Sixtus II & Comps were martyred in Rome in 258, under the Emperor Valerius.

St Cajetan: (d 1547) founded the Theatine Congregation of priests to work in communities in large cities and also influenced St Philip Neri in founding the Congregation of the Oratory some years later.

August 8th: the Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time: (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. During August: Low Mass**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Brenda Molloy, Thomas Agga, Josephine Spooner, Imelda Martinez, Nick Usher-Somers, Ute Bowyer, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Kevan Bleach, Tony Farmer, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, David Pritchard, Carolyn Knight, Joan Cleevely and Barbara Jarvis.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Michael Marshall, Craig Woods; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Philip Lynch of this Oratory, Maria Rosario, Evelyn Madden, Robert Hogan, Thomas McGough, Maureen Gilley and Bridie & Sean O'Driscoll.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, August 7th/8th 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.: Jason Mahoney

Collections last week:

17th Sunday of the Year: 25th July, 2010

Offertory: £1,511

Second: Verona Fathers: £1393

(Separate Donations: Cardinal Newman's shrine:)
£1,290

(Target £45,000)

Very Many thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND will be for the refurbishment of St. Philip's Chapel as Cardinal Newman's shrine.

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Masses and has a large selection of items including DVDs and books.

THIS WEEK

There will be A HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning to pray for the success of Cardinal Newman's beatification and the Pope's visit.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will take place this week on Wednesday this week starting at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 5 p.m. (There will not be a Mass).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE BEATIFICATION OF CARDINAL NEWMAN: Please note that the final date for submission of applications is this Friday, August 6th. No applications can be accepted after then (by order of the Bishops' Conference). As previously mentioned, it is essential to book if you wish to go to the Beatification as access to the Beatification site can only be gained by coach. **Completed forms must be returned to the Oratory in an envelope marked "Beatification". Please do not send to PaxTravel.**

The ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY at GRACE DIEU MANOR, Leicester, to pray for World Peace and for Young People, will take place on Sunday 22 August commencing with Mass at 3 p.m.

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH will not be meeting this month; the next meeting will be on September 4th at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House **'NEWMAN and BIRMINGHAM'** is the title of a lecture which will be given by Professor Sheridan Gilley, author of *Newman and His Age*, to mark the Beatification of Cardinal Newman. It takes place on Monday 13 September at 6 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Univer-

sity of Birmingham. The event is free but you must register your attendance with Aidan Thompson at a.p.thompson@bham.ac.uk, or 0121 414 3602.

THE POPE'S VISIT: When our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, comes to the Oratory on 19th September, straight after the beatification, he will be the first pilgrim to pray in the new shrine that will be in St Philip's Chapel. This is a tremendous honour, not only for Cardinal Newman, but also for our parish and community. For obvious reasons the visit will be very short **and it will be completely private. Very many thanks to all those of you who have made specific donations towards setting up Blessed John Henry Newman's shrine and to fund the redecoration of St Philip's Chapel, making it ready to receive the relics of Blessed John Henry but a great deal more is needed. For all donations, we would strongly urge those of you who are taxpayers to complete a Gift Aid form (to be found at the doors of the church) as we can increase your donation by claiming money back from Revenue & Customs.**

The ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON to honour the Martyrs of the Midlands, will take place on Sunday 5th September. The Mass will be at 3 p.m. and the Principal Celebrant will be His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley.

NOTICES

APF RED BOX HOLDERS are asked to co-operate with your collectors in exchanging your red boxes, as the quarter has just ended. We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and generosity to the Missionary work of the Church throughout the world.

SUNDAY 5.30 MASS : the choir is on holiday during the month of August. Sung Masses will resume on Sunday 5th September.

SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER: The day of the Beatification of Cardinal Newman and the Pope's Visit will obviously be different in many ways from a normal Sunday. Details about the schedule on that day will soon be available.