

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 3rd 2010: THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



GOD MADE MAN, SAVIOUR AND KING

Now that we celebrate the Epiphany on the Sunday nearest to January 6th, we have the opportunity to celebrate what is, in effect, a complete Octave from Epiphany until the Feast of the Baptism next Sunday. An Octave is eight days of continuous celebration of a great feast. For instance, we have just finished celebrating the Octave of Christmas, which began on Christmas Day and ended with the Solemnity of Our Lady, Mother of God, on January 1st. We also still celebrate an Octave for the greatest feast of the whole year, Easter Day.

The Epiphany used to have an official Octave of its own for many hundreds of years until it was dropped, along with most other Octaves, in the late 1950's. Yet it is very fitting to continue celebrating the great Solemnity of the Epiphany or "Manifestation" of our Lord, because it commemorates so much more than the coming of the Magi. For instance, if you come to Vespers on Sunday evening, you will hear in the Antiphon to the "Magnificat", which is the high point of the Service, that we celebrate no fewer than three "wonders" on this day. What are they?

The first such wonderful event is, of course, the coming of the Magi with their gifts. This event tells us that Jesus is not a King for the Jews only, but also for the non-

Jews, or "gentiles" like the Magi who came from Persia. We, too, are like the Magi in being "gentiles". Yet we recognise that Jesus is God-made-man, King and Priest and for all mankind, even for those who do not yet explicitly acknowledge Him. The Magi remind us that even those persons who have been brought up in another religion can and should still seek the fullness of truth which is to be found, ultimately, only in Christ. Their three gifts have always been understood to symbolise three aspects of Christ's earthly mission begun with His birth at Bethlehem: gold representing kingship, incense representing Godhead and myrrh representing mortality, showing the future death and grave which await the Christ Child.

The second "wonderful event" commemorated in the Epiphany is Our Lord's Baptism, which we will keep next Sunday. We will think more about that next Sunday, but for now it is enough to realise that it even though it was an event which took place many years later than the coming of the Magi, they belong together precisely as "manifestations" of Christ's godhead through His manhood.

Similarly in the third great Epiphany event, our Lord's first miracle at Cana, when He changed the water into wine at the wedding feast, we also see Him exercising His power as the Creator over His creation, and all for the sake of mankind—to bring us joy! Once again, we will hear that event recounted for us in the Gospel of the Sunday after the Baptism, in a fortnight's time, and so will have an opportunity then to ponder its significance as part of the celebration of Epiphany - the "showing forth" - of Our Lord's divine nature through the medium of the human nature which He not only created as God, but took upon Himself fully when He became Mary's Son.

Sunday January 3rd: The Solemnity of the Epiphany (*White*)

- 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. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

EPIPHANYTIDE: 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.

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

PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR EXCEPTIONS THIS WEEK

Monday 4th January: Monday after the Epiphany (White)

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

Tuesday 5th January: Tuesday after the Epiphany. (White) Optional memoria of St Charles of Mount Argus, Priest. (White)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

St Charles of Mount Argus (1821-1893) A Passionist priest from Holland, he came to Staffordshire in 1852 and spent five years at St Wilfrid's at Cotton before moving to the Passionists' monastery at Mount Argus in Dublin. Despite his poor command of English, he became a renowned friend of the poor, a confessor and was known to have the gift of healing. He was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007.

Wednesday 6th December: Wednesday after the Epiphany. (White)

- **Feast of the Epiphany: School Mass at 9.30 a.m. in Church**
- **Solemn High Mass 1962 Missal 8 p.m.**

Thursday 7th January: Thursday after the Epiphany. (White) Optional memoria of St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest. (White)

St Raymond of Penyafort (1175-1275) From childhood he had a tender devotion to Our Lady, and became a priest in his native Barcelona. He studied law at Bologna and became a famous preacher before joining the Dominicans (eventually becoming Master General). He was asked to Rome by Pope Gregory IX to collate Canon Law, and whilst there, he learned of the difficulties faced by missionaries, particularly in North Africa and Spain, and together with the King of Aragon (a relative), and St Peter Nolasco, he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom, whose members devoted themselves to rescuing Christians captured by the Moors. He also established schools to teach Arabic and Hebrew. He was a very compassionate man and devoted much of his time working for the release of slaves. He is the Patron Saint of Canon lawyers.

Friday 8th January: Friday after the Epiphany. (White)

Saturday 9th January: Saturday after the Epiphany. (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 (The Baptism of Our Lord) at 5.45 p.m.**

January 10th: The Baptism of Our Lord (White)

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: Michael Corcoran, Tony Colqhoun, Pat Cartwright, Geoff Jones, Francis Ratcliffe, Leroy McCoy, Carolyn Knight, James Foynes, Michael McCann and Philip McCann.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: John Nulty, Catherine Kelly, Maureen Leyland and Gus Sutton;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Ralph Blakelock of this Oratory, Mabel Reeves, John Chavasse, Mary Mitchell, Kathleen Devere, Maureen Reedy, Brendan McGill, Chris O'Neill, Christopher Hogan, Mary Gallagher and Kamden Michel.

Gus Sutton's funeral is on Tuesday at 11 a.m. Reception of remains: before Mass

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, January 9th/10th, The Baptism of Our Lord:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

Feast of the Holy Family: 27th December, 2009
Offertory: £1,486
Second: Diocesan Pro-Life collection: £437

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND will be for the Maintenance of our Church.

Next weekend the annual retiring "White Flower" Collection will be taken up for SPUC.

The CRIB COLLECTION this year is for SURVIVEMIVA, the Association which provides vehicles for Missionaries throughout the world.

The 2010 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY, DIARIES & CALENDARS are on sale at the **Piety Stall** which is open after Saturday 5.45 p.m. Mass and all Sunday Masses. **All Christmas cards are reduced by at least 20% this weekend only.**

CARDINAL NEWMAN HERITAGE PROJECT: The Oratory Primary School's very interesting exhibition in the Cloister Buildings, which can be viewed over the next few weeks, covers aspects the history of life in Ladywood at Christmastide

THIS WEEK

The ANNUAL EPIPHANY PRIZE DRAW will take place in the Lower Cloister Hall. after the 8 p.m. High Mass on Wednesday 6th January. There will be a light buffet and soft drinks for which there will be an entrance fee of £2. (The cost will also cover a separate raffle

for those there.) You are welcome to bring your own alcohol.

Please note: RAFFLE TICKETS STUBS MUST BE RETURNED BY THE END OF TUESDAY We would be glad to also receive donations of unwanted Christmas presents to offer as prizes. (Please note that the items must be unused!)

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Monday beginning at 2.30 with Holy Mass and ending with Benediction at 4.30.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS (Open to those aged 20-35) will meet on Thursday 7th at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. The subject will be the Extraordinary Form of the Mass.

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION A G M will take place in the Lower Cloister Hall on Saturday, after the 11 a.m. Mass.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The ALTAR SOCIETY next meet on Tuesday 12th January, at 2.30 p.m. in the Oratory House

ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 30th April-7th May: Sick, disabled and aged people are invited to take part in a pilgrimage £250 is asked towards the cost, but anything over that amount is welcomed from those who can afford it. Accommodation in the Accueil Notre Dame. Contact Anthony Brown on 01823 480441 or e

YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

Saint John Mary Vianney taught his parishioners primarily by the witness of his life. It was from his example that they learned to pray, halting frequently before the tabernacle for a visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. "One need not say much to pray well" – the Curé explained to them – "We know that Jesus is there in the tabernacle: let us open our hearts to him, let us rejoice in his sacred presence. That is the best prayer". And he would urge them: "Come to communion, my brothers and sisters, come to Jesus. Come to live from him in order to live with him... "Of course you are not worthy of him, but you need him!".

This way of educating the faithful to the Eucharistic presence and to communion proved most effective when they saw him celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Those present said that "it was not possible to find a finer example of worship... He gazed upon the Host with immense love". "All good works, taken together, do not equal the sacrifice of the Mass" – he would say – "since they are human works, while the Holy Mass is the work of God". He was convinced that the fervour of a priest's life depended entirely upon the Mass: "The reason why a priest is lax is that he does not pay attention to the Mass! My God, how we ought to pity a priest who celebrates as if he were engaged in something routine!". He was accustomed, when celebrating, also to offer his own life in sacrifice: "What a good thing it is for a priest each morning to offer himself to God in sacrifice!".