

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.

April 26th 2009: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Provost writes:

THE RISEN SAVIOUR'S GIFT OF PEACE.

I am sure you have noticed the frequency with which, after His Resurrection, Our Lord greets His disciples with those simple words: "Peace be with you". We hear them again in this Sunday's Gospel. They are words which also come to us in one form or another in the Mass, especially as we prepare to meet Our Lord in Eucharistic Communion.

That awesome encounter with Him in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood gives us a clue as to how we best understand His words. When we think of "peace" we perhaps automatically think of its absence in so many parts of our world: wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, terrorism in its many manifestations, persecutions of the faith – the list is long. It is right and proper that we pray for peace for all those caught up in the effects of war, violence and hatred.

We might also think of how society is shattered in so many ways: crime, divorce, abortion, euthanasia, family breakdown and so on. So many of our fellow men and women lead lives which are deeply disturbed as a result of what has happened to them as old certainties and ways of behaviour collapse. We should indeed pray for them and for the allaying of their anxieties and the healing of their wounds, physical and emotional. Also, in a time of economic recession and the accompanying worries that brings, we should pray for the peace necessary for society to continue to function properly in a time of deep uncertainty and stress.

However, the peace which Christ bestows on us is something deeper than all of these. Here are some words of St Thomas More: "*Nothing can*

come but than that God wills. And I make me very sure that whatsoever that be, seem it never so bad in sight, it shall indeed be the best." The words of a man about to suffer martyrdom for his faith in Christ and his adherence to the Church, reveal to us that true peace which Christ gives. It is a peace which comes from being united to Him; it is a peace which is unruffled, undisturbed by the events this world throws at us: the betrayal of friends, the collapse of hopes and plans, the tragedies and anxieties which are part of all our lives. If we are friends with Christ, if His peace reigns in our hearts and souls then whatever happens "it shall indeed be the best", because through it all God's plans are moving forward, even if we cannot perceive or understand them. That union, that friendship with Christ reaches a high point when we come to Him in Holy Communion. That goes to explain why Our Lord's resurrection appearances are often tied to "the breaking of bread" – to teach us that in the Eucharist, in the Mass, is the way we come to Him now.

"Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace". This is what we pray for this weekend. A peace the world cannot give, a peace the world cannot take from us: the best gift of them all.

LOOKING FORWARD.

Friday this week is May 1st (where do the weeks go?!). May Devotions begin that evening – a lovely way to honour Our Lady in the month dedicated to her. Please come as and when you can. Devotions take place every weekday evening unless impeded by a major feast. As the month of May progresses they are coupled with the Novenas for Pentecost and for the feast of our founder, St Philip. This is an opportunity to give advance notice of the arrangements for St Philip's Day. This year we are honoured to have as our guest Cardinal John Foley, who comes to us from Rome. Cardinal Foley is an old friend of the Oratory's and a great admirer of Cardinal Newman. For many years he was the President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and is now the Grand Master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Cardinal Foley will preside at First Vespers of St Philip (May 25th), and on the feast itself (May 26th) he will celebrate the High Mass and preach. Make a note in your diaries now!

Sunday April 26th: The Third 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*

THIRD WEEK OF EASTER: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 3

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

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. (N.b. May Devotions commence on Friday at 7.45 p.m. with the Rosary)

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

<p>Monday, 27th April: Monday of Easter Week 3. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m. <p>Tuesday, 28th April: Tuesday of Easter Week 3 (White) <i>Optional memorias of St Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr. (Red); or of St Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest. (White)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benediction at 8 p.m. <p>St Peter Chanel (1803-41) As a child in France, his parish priest was impressed by his intelligence, piety and simplicity, and undertook his education. He became a priest and was determined to do missionary work and so joined the newly-formed Marist Missionaries, though for five years he was left to teach at the seminary in France. He was sent as the leader on a mission to Futuna in the South Pacific. The local ruler became jealous of Fr Peter's success, especially when his own son converted, and arranged for Fr Peter's brutal murder. He is the proto-martyr of the South Seas.</p> <p>St Louis Mary de Montfort (1673-1716) Also a French priest, he dedicated his life to the spiritual care of the sick and the poor and with Blessed Louisa Trichet, founded the Daughters of Wisdom. Deeply devoted to Our Lady, he travelled France teaching amongst other things, devotion to Our Lord through Our Lady. His works of spiritual direction are still very relevant and popular today, and are to be recommended.</p> <p>Wednesday, 29th April: Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church, and Patron of Europe. (White)</p> <p>St Catherine of Siena (1347-80) A visionary even as a child, she joined the Dominicans as soon as she was permitted. She was one of the most brilliant theological minds of the day and was influential as an adviser to Popes and was renowned for her ability to procure conversions, even amongst hardened criminals. Her letters and "Dialogue" are still considered some of the greatest writings in the Church. She died at 33, and the stigmata became visible after her death. In 1430, her body was discovered to be incorrupt. She is a Doctor of the Church.</p> <p>Thursday, 30th April: Thursday of Easter Week 3. (White) <i>Optional memoria of St Pius V, Pope. (White)</i></p> <p>St Pius V (1504-72) Elected Pope in 1566, he remained a devout mendicant Dominican in his personal life. His Pontificate is marked by his defence of Church teachings, the excommunication of Elizabeth I, restoring of discipline to lax clergy and his insistence on strict adherence to the decrees of the Council of Trent.</p> <p>Friday, 1st May: Friday of Easter Week 3. (White). <i>Optional memoria of St Joseph the Worker. (White)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May Devotions commencing with Rosary at 7.45 p.m. <p>St Joseph the Worker We honour St Joseph on this secular 'Labour Day', as the Patron Saint of the dignity and value of human work.</p> <p>Saturday, May 2nd: St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (Fourth Sunday of Easter) at 5.45 p.m. <p>St Athanasius (296-373) Much of his 46 years as Bishop of Alexandria was spent in exile due to opposition to his fierce stand against Arianism. Cardinal Newman, who had a particular devotion to him, described him as "...that extraordinary man...a principal instrument after the apostles by which the sacred truths of Christianity have been conveyed and secured to the world."</p>	<p>3rd May: Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)</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. 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 <p>Please pray for the sick Sr Francis Clare, John Shaw, Maurice Hynes, May Poppins, John Rose, Bobby Cunningham, Katie Hayward, Mary Cunliffe, Carole Halls, Margaret Casey, John McCann, Patrick Walshe, Raymond Colquhoun and Elizabeth Friday.</p> <p>Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Kathleen Carthy;</p> <p>and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Norbert Rosario, Pauline Hayward, James Conlon, Jamie Howkins and Frank Gardner</p> <p>The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, May 2nd/3rd, The Fourth Sunday of Easter:</p> <p><i>Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck</i> <i>Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne</i> <i>12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons</i> <i>5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney</i></p> <p>Collections:</p> <p><i>Divine Mercy Sunday: 19th April, 2009</i> <i>Offertory: £1,935</i> <i>Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £492</i></p> <p><i>Many thanks</i></p> <p>The Second Collection this weekend will be for The Altar Society</p>
<p>TODAY</p> <p>The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>The ALTAR SOCIETY meets on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Oratory House.</p> <p>BROTHERS OF THE LITTLE ORATORY meet each Tuesday evening in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction (approx 8.20 p.m.). for prayer and spiritual direction from Fr Anton, followed by refreshments and socialising. All men are welcome to attend and new members would be most welcome.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>MAY DEVOTIONS commence on Friday at 7.45 p.m. with the Rosary, followed by a short meditation about Our Lady and ending with Benediction.</p> <p>The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH meets on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House. All are welcome.</p> <p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP (for those aged 20 to 35) meet on the first Thursday of each month, to share and deepen their faith and to socialise. The next meeting is on Thursday May 7th at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House, and the discussion will be</p>	<p>on "Portraying the Catholic View of Sexuality in Secular Britain". Enquiries to Richard on 07905 601721, or to Fr Anton.</p> <p>ANCIENT CHRISTIAN ROME, a short series of illustrated talks will be given by Br. John Parker S.M., an expert in Christian Roman history and archaeology, on Saturday, May 9th and Sunday May 10th in the Cloister Buildings. Full details next week.</p> <p>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 <i>Mysterium Fidei</i>. 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</p> <p>NOTICES</p> <p>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. <i>Also</i> 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.</p>