

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

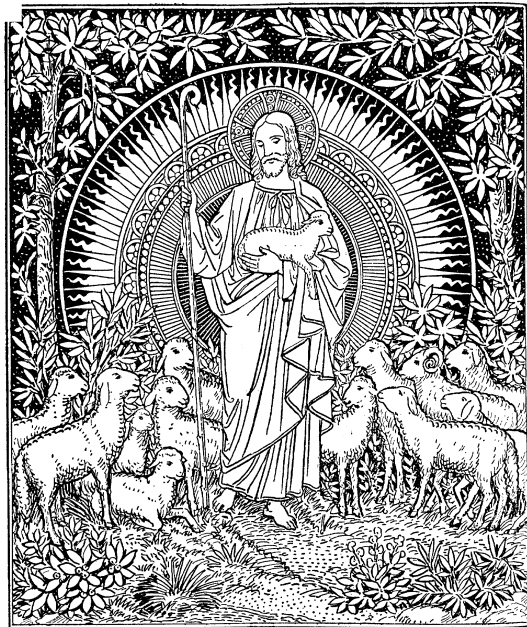
Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School contact:

dickinsonc@oratory.bham.sch.uk



April 25th 2010: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday of Eastertide is known as "Good Shepherd Sunday", since the Gospel reading is drawn from the tenth chapter of St. John in which our Lord describes Himself as the Good Shepherd, and gives a lengthy account of exactly what that title means in practice. Today's reading is therefore only a short excerpt from the whole chapter which is based on this theme.

Our Lord is the Shepherd who, as He says in today's extract, "gives eternal life" to His sheep, whom He has received in trust from His Father. This gift of eternal life is only possible because Christ has won it for us at the price of His own death, and by the power of His own resurrection from the dead.

Christ took a shepherd's care of the entire human race upon Himself at His incarnation when He became man, and once again at His baptism when, as St. John the Baptist then said, He became "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". Normally speaking, a shepherd does not share the same nature as the flocks he looks after. A herd is a man who looks after flocks of sheep or goats, or other animals. But because Christ is "the Lamb of God", we learn from this image that He is the Shepherd who shares *the same nature* as the sheep for whom He has laid down his life.

Moreover, this Shepherd did not stop caring for the sheep as soon as He rose from the dead and ascended to His Father's side in heaven. He continues to care for them by feeding them and protecting them from the wild beasts who threaten their welfare and their very existence.

This He does by means of the sacraments which He entrusts to His Church. These sacraments are administered by those whom He especially chooses and prepares to share His responsibility as shepherds: the bishops and priests of His Church.

It is easy to see from this what a tremendous weight of responsibility rests on the shoulders of these men. Right the way back to the Apostles themselves Christ has invited particular men to bear this responsibility with Him and under Him. He might have chosen another way to dispense His grace to His flock, but we understand from the Gospels that this is indeed the way that Christ has determined to make His graces available to His Church in every time and place.

At the present time we are painfully aware of the way that some of these sharers in the shepherd's role have betrayed their most sacred trust. Instead of caring for Christ's flock, as they were solemnly committed to do by their ordination, they have harmed the very flock that they should have nourished and protected. The horrible crime of abuse is doubly heinous when committed by those who should exercise a shepherd's role in the name and in the place of Christ Himself.

Hence we must pray in a special and most intense way for the protection of all the Church's shepherds. Bishops and priests are only human. Yet they are given divine grace and guidance which, though it does not take away their human frailty, opens them up in humility to know how completely they depend upon Christ in order to do His work.

Please, therefore, pray today particularly for the Pope, who has been the target of so much unjust vilification in recent weeks. Such attacks upon Him arise in truth more from hatred of the teaching that has been entrusted to Him by Christ as the chief shepherd of Christ's flock, and to which he is so faithful. It is the Pope's steadfastness in guiding the Church in the truth about married love and priestly dedication to the person of Christ in celibacy that has earned Him such opposition both from outside and even within certain parts of the Church. Pray, too, for all priests and those who are called by our Lord to share this burden and sacred trust. The priesthood is a wonderful calling and no man who undertakes it in generosity and humility will ever be abandoned by Christ. There may be many sufferings which the shepherds have to endure for the sake of their flock but they will all surely be rewarded as our Lord says, not only in many ways in this life, but most certainly with the gift of eternal life, when they will rejoice to hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of Your Lord!" On that final day we pray that both shepherds and flock will rejoice together in everlasting light.

Sunday April 25th: Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (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. Vespers and Benediction

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 4 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.

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

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

Monday 26th April: Monday of Easter (White)

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

Tuesday 27th April: Tuesday of Easter (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Adoration in the Cloister Chapel; Holy Mass 2.30—Benediction 4.30 p.m.**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 28th April: Wednesday of Easter (White). *Optional memorias of St Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr. (Red); or of St Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest. (White)*

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St Peter Chanel (1803-41) His desire to be a missionary led him to join the Marist Fathers, but due to his other talents, he taught in the French seminary for five years before being sent as leader of a mission to Futuna in the South Pacific. He was very successful, but the local ruler became jealous, especially when his own son converted and he ordered Fr Peter's murder. He is the proto-martyr of the South Seas.

St Louis Mary de Montfort (1673-1716) Dedicated to the care of the sick and poor, he was devoted to Our Lady and travelled through France preaching devotion to Our Lord through Mary. His spiritual writings are still of great spiritual value today.

Thursday 29th April: St Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church and Co-Patron of Europe. Feast. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St Catherine of Siena (1347-80) A brilliant theological mind, and a visionary, she joined the Dominicans and became a sought-after adviser even to Popes. She was renowned for her ability to convert. Her letters and "Dialogue" are still regarded as some of the Church's greatest writings. The marks of stigmata appeared after her death and in 1430 her body was found to be incorrupt.

Friday 30th April: Friday of Easter (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

Saturday 1st May: Saturday of Easter (White). *Optional memoria of St Joseph the Worker. (White)*

- **Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**
- **Latin Mass 1962 Missal at 9.30 a.m. in St Philip's Chapel**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 1.55 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Joseph the Worker: On this feast, introduced to counteract the secularist 'Labour Day', we honour St Joseph as the Patron of the dignity and value of human work.

May 2nd: The Fifth 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. 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 Dennis Grigg, Mary Shafer, Geoff Jones, Kevan Bleach, Pat Cartwright, Carolyn Knight, David Pritchard, Elizabeth Caswell, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Tony Farmer.

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

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Joseph Keegan, Norbert Rosario, Guy Collis, James Conlon, Ciaran Buckley and Jamie Howkins.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, May 1st/2nd The Fifth Sunday of Easter:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Peter Bateman
12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

Third Sunday of Easter: 18th April, 2010
Offertory: £1,457

Second: Maintenance of St Chad's Cathedral: £471

Thank you

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND, Good Shepherd Sunday, will be for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund.

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.

THIS WEEK

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

TUESDAY is the 43rd anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. The "**Good Counsel Network**", who offer tests and counselling to those who are tempted to have an abortion, ask that the day be marked by prayer and fasting for the pro-Life cause. Therefore, this week's **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** in the Cloister Chapel will take place on Tuesday afternoon instead of Monday. There will be Holy Mass (at 2.30 p.m.), the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayers and the afternoon will end with Benediction at c. 4.30 p.m.

LATIN LOW MASS (Tridentine) 1962 MISSAL on Saturday morning in St Philip's Chapel will be said every week at 9.30.

OScott COLLEGE PUBLIC LECTURE on Friday 30th April at 8 p.m. will be on Cardinal Newman and will be given by our Provost, Fr Richard Duffield. Please see poster for more details.

ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL is hosting a Fund Raising Dance in aid of Cathedral maintenance, on 1st May at The Parish Hall, St Anne's, Alcester Street. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets £4 at the door.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSHINGHAM Saturday 8th May: *Please note that the Oratory coach is fully booked.*

NOTICES

APF RED BOX HOLDERS: Please collect your replacement boxes from the back of church or the sacristy if you have not yet done so. Many thanks.

ANNIE BRIGHT WESTON RESIDENTIAL HOME (Sisters of Charity of St Paul) in Norfolk Road have another vacancy of a single bedroom for a lady over 65 years of age in their residential home. (Please note: this is not a nursing home). It has its own chapel and Mass is celebrated most days. For further information, please contact the manager on 0121 454 1289.

The PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE is available for all who wish to welcome Our Lady to their home. Our Lady's prayers are all powerful with God. She will not only pray for our deepest needs and intentions, but will also help us to find the way to renew prayer in our lives. At Fatima, Our Lady emphasised the importance of the Rosary. Leading to the Beatification, we ask those who have the Statue to especially include in their prayers the Oratory, its Priests and its congregation. *Forms are at the church doors.*

During Paschaltide, instead of the *Angelus*, we pray Our Lady's Easter Antiphon:

REGINA CAELI

*Regina Caeli, lactare, Alleluia!
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!
Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!
Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!*

Then:

*Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

*Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!
He whom you were fit to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised has arisen, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God your prayer, Alleluia!*

Let us pray: O God, who have graciously given joy to the world in the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ; grant, we pray, that through His mother the Virgin Mary, we may attain to the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

