

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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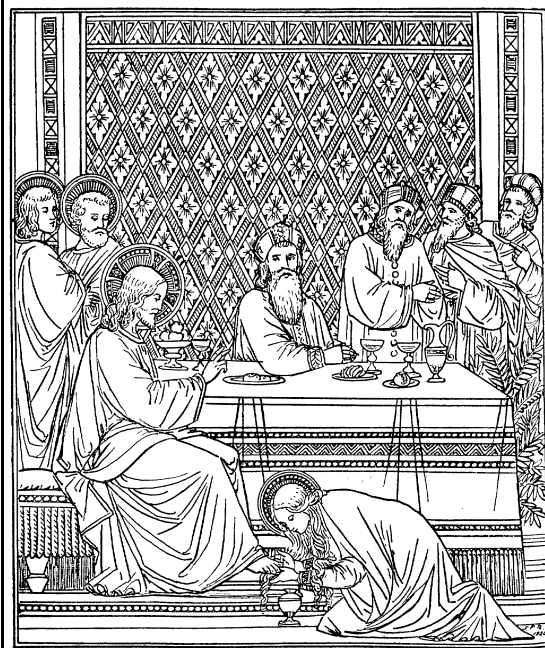
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June 13th 2010: ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ORDINARY TIME

Last Sunday we celebrated the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, a feast which arose from the Church's desire to return once more to the institution of the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood at the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. It was the last of the great feasts relating to the mysteries of our redemption which began on Ash Wednesday over four months ago. Now on Sundays week by week once again we will see the green vestments which characterise "Ordinary Time", as contrasting with the white of Easter-tide, Trinity and Corpus Christi, the red of Pentecost and the purple of Lent.

Ordinary (or "green") time does not celebrate any one particular mystery, but the whole of Christian life between Christ's first coming and His second on the Last Day. During this long period of five months we will return to the weekly, almost continuous, reading of excerpts from one of the three "synoptic" Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), each of which is read in turn in the three yearly cycle of Sunday Masses, of which this is St. Luke's year.

THE FORGIVEN WOMAN

Although the three synoptic Gospels share many characteristics and even much of the same material, there are interesting differences between them. For instance, St. Luke pays especial attention to events and stories told by Our Lord which show the depths of God's mercy. Today's extract about the woman who anoints His feet is a good example.

Although several similar stories appear in all four Gospels, the differences between them are considerable. It is virtually certain that they do not

refer to the same person or the same event. Only the woman who is at the centre of today's event is described as a "sinner". This is to explain the significance of what she does, and of Our Lord's interpretation of it.

She enters the house of a Pharisee called Simon, who is entertaining Our Lord to a meal, and she anoints Jesus's feet with precious perfume. Anointing a person as a sign of reverence was not unusual in Our Lord's day, though usually the oil was poured on the head, as Our Lord mentions in His comments to His host, Simon the Pharisee. Simon's reaction to what the woman has done, which is unspoken, is that Jesus has shown Himself in a bad light by allowing such a well-known sinful woman as this to touch Him in this way. Jesus, who knows all that is in everyone's heart, addresses Simon's prejudice against the woman. He explains to Simon that the woman has acted in this way because she *has* been forgiven her many sins.

At first sight it may seem that Our Lord is simply saying that because she has loved much in performing this act, therefore she *will* be forgiven—but He is saying something more subtle—that her action here is a sign of the love that proves she has already been forgiven. She anoints Jesus to show her thankfulness and love. Conscious of her unworthiness she will not dare to anoint His head, but only to touch His feet in all humility.

When Our Lord finally turns to the woman herself and says, "*Your sins are forgiven*", that may seem to strengthen the idea that she has only now earned Christ's forgiveness by her act of love. But this is the way our Lord often speaks in the Gospel. He frequently *declares* forgiveness to one who has in a sense already received it. This way of addressing penitent sinners points towards the sacrament of Penance. For as we know, we may receive forgiveness for our sins whenever we make an act of contrition (and so we should, often!), but that is no substitute for confession and absolution, when God's mercy is declared openly and the bonds of our sins that weaken us are broken by God's grace. Simon has failed to understand what the woman is doing because he has never known what it is to be conscious of being a serious sinner. He has not learned to love God with the same zeal because he has not been aware of needing forgiveness as urgently as she has. The woman in today's Gospel reading had already been forgiven her sins, which is why she showed such love for Jesus, but she gained even more in Our Lord's consoling words of absolution: "*Your sins are forgiven...your faith has saved you, go in peace!*"

Sunday June 13th: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

- 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*

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 3 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.

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

Benediction on Tuesday at 8 p.m., and Fridays in June in Honour of the Sacred Heart

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

Monday 14th June: Feria. (Green)

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

Tuesday 15th June: Feria. (Green)

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

Wednesday 16th June: Feria. (Green). Optional Memoria of St Richard of Chichester, Bishop. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St Richard of Chichester (1197-1262) He was born into a farming family in Droitwich and is therefore sometimes referred to as "St Richard of Wyche". He was educated at Oxford and in Paris and returned to Oxford, where he became Chancellor of the University. Soon after, he was called to be Chancellor to (St) Edmund of Canterbury but disputes with the king forced the two into exile in France where Edmund died and Richard joined the priesthood. He returned to minister in England and was appointed Bishop of Chichester. He tackled abuses and lax behaviour within the clergy, whilst maintaining a simple life, a deep humility and care for his flock, especially the poor.

Thursday 17th June: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

Friday 18th June: The Dedication of St Chad's Cathedral. Feast. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Benediction in Honour of the Sacred Heart at 8 p.m.**

Saturday 19th June: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or Feria. (Green); or optional memoria of St Romuald, Abbot. (White)

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

St Romuald (c. 951-1027) Born at Ravenna, he lived a worldly life until he witnessed his father kill a relative. He decided to atone for the crime as if he had committed it himself. He joined the Benedictines and became an Abbot. He sought to restore penance and solitude in monasticism, and after founding several monasteries, founded the austere Order of Camaldoli in Tuscany.

June 20th: the Twelfth 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. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Sr Catherine Murphy, Thelma Havelin, Patrick Sharkey, May Colquhoun, Sandra Green, Kevan Bleach, Maurice Hynes, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, David Pritchard, Carolyn Knight, and Tony Farmer.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Diana Mathers, Pat Cartwright and Denis Grigg;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Patrick Ahern, Thomas Reeves and John McNamara.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, June 26th/27th 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 5.45 p.m: Anne Roebuck

Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Peter Bateman

12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson

5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

Corpus Christi: 6th June, 2010

Offertory: £1,477

Second: Church maintenance: £712

Thank you

TODAY

The ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL FIRST COMMUNION MASS: The children of Year 3 will make their First Holy Communion at the 12 noon Mass. Please pray for all the children making their First Holy Communion, and their families that they will accept God's graces and ensure that these children continue to receive the Sacraments.

THE SECOND COLLECTION will be for the music in our Church.

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses and has a wide selection of First Communion cards and gifts. As well as books, DVDs etc

There will be no refreshments today due to the First Communion Mass

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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will take place on **Monday** beginning at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 5 p.m. (There will be no Mass.)

BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART is on Friday at 8 p.m. (following the Rosary at 7.45 p.m. as usual.)

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION COFFEE MORNING will be held in the Lower Cloister Hall next Saturday, 19th June after the 11 a.m. Mass

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED will be hosting an event on Sunday 27th June in the Upper Cloister Hall. "The Light of The World" will be an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the challenges facing Christians around the world. Talks will begin at 2 p.m. and will end with the 5.30 p.m. Mass. The main guest speaker will be Fr Samir Kahil Samir SJ who will speak on Christi-

anity and Islam in the Middle East. The event is free **but you must reserve a seat. (You cannot turn up on the day having not done so as space is limited)**. To reserve a place, please call **0208 642 8668**, or at www.acnuk.org/birmingham. (The Oratory will not be taking bookings).

A DAY WITH MARY: will be held here on Saturday 17th July commencing at 10 a.m. It is a day of instruction, devotion and intercession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. The day will include a procession and crowning of Our Lady's statue; Exposition; Rosaries; Act of Consecration; enrolment in the Brown Scapular; Mass; Confession; Benediction. Please see the poster for more details.

THE BEATIFICATION OF CARDINAL NEWMAN will be on Sunday 19th September and it is essential that you book on a coach in order to gain access to the Beatification site. Travel to and from the site will be £15. Coaches will leave from and return *not* to the Oratory as previously stated, but at certain pick-up points around Birmingham. Full details will be given in due course. Forms are to be found at the back of church and completed forms must be returned to the Oratory in an envelope marked "Beatification". Please do *not* send to Pax Travel.

EX CATHEDRA CONCERT: Vespers by Candlelight, takes place here on Wednesday 23rd June. at 9 p.m. Ticket enquiries should be made to 2364455 (not the Oratory).

AWARENESS RAISING DAY about DEMENTIA takes place on Saturday 24th July at St Joseph's care home in Coleshill. It is aimed primarily at people who are caring for a family member with dementia. The day is free of charge and refreshments including lunch will be provided. To book places, or for more information, please contact Sally Scattergood on 01675 434000 or email stjosephs2@fatherhudsons.org.uk

Now that Paschaltide is over, we pray the "Angelus" in the morning, at midday, and in the evening:

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary....

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. R. Be it done unto me according to your word. Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made flesh. R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the Glory of His Resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.