

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.

August 2nd 2009: THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

The Provost writes:

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

As we continue to make our way through the sixth chapter of St John's Gospel this weekend, we hear wonderful words from Our Lord's lips: "I am the Bread of Life." In St John we find several of these marvellous "I am" statements: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"; "I am the Light of the world"; "I am the Resurrection and the Life" and so forth. They leave very little room for manoeuvre, those statements; they do not invite discussion! Our Lord tells us quite plainly: "This is who I am" - and then, as it were, says: "And what are you going to do about it?"

Indeed, the onus is placed on us. We cannot carry on as if nothing has happened once we hear those words. They do not permit it. I suppose we could try to carry on, but when people do that, they themselves go terribly wrong. If you have been shown the way, do you want to get lost again? If you have been told the truth, do you want to return to lies? If you have seen the light, do you want to stay in the dark? If you have been offered food, do you want to remain hungry? If you have been given life, do you want to be dead?

These words of Our Lord challenge us fundamentally. To have heard them means we must make a response. We can accept what He says and live accordingly; we can reject what He says and try to carry on. But we cannot stay the same. Neutrality is not an option and Our Lord says as much when He says "He who is not with me, is against me."



Now our society tries so hard to make a religion a private thing, a personal hobby, which means the Church is safely out of the way, with no real influence on the world's affairs - relegated, as it were, to the sacristy. This cannot be right. We have only to read Pope Benedict XVI's latest encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, to learn that the Church has plenty to say about social and economic issues, and about how the Kingdom of Christ, with its standards and values, must influence how the world goes on. All of this flows from what Our Lord says about Himself, and what that implies for the dignity and integrity of every man and woman in the eyes of the state. If He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, if He is the Bread of Life, then this has consequences which will be seen not only in the lives of individual believers, but also in the very structure of society, or what used to be called Christian civilization. Of course, we don't have to look very hard to discover that most of the world has a very long way to go in order to make the Social Kingship of Christ a reality in everyday life. But failures and setbacks cannot result in the Church being reduced to silence or being marginalised by governments. Like St Paul, we proclaim the message in season and out of season, and insist on it. Only in Christ, the Bread of Life, only with Him, who gives life to the world, do we have any hope of a truly just and fair society. Without Him there is chaos, exploitation, dehumanisation. The choice is ours!

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Our American friends returned to Cincinnati this week. They enjoyed their stay and seemed to benefit from experiencing first-hand the life of an old-established Oratory. Please keep their Oratorian venture in your prayers. Now we welcome for a month Konrad Biskup, a deacon from Poland, who comes to improve his English and help in and around the Church and parish whilst our Sacristan and some of the Fathers have their holidays.

BEATIFICATION NOTES

There is still no date fixed for the great event of our Cardinal's Beatification. Enquiries from around the world keep on arriving. We learn that a doctorate student from the University of Macau, China, is translating into Chinese the prayer we use for our Cardinal's canonisation. How wonderful it would be if Chinese Catholics, who have such a hard time of it, were to be responsible for a new miracle to secure Cardinal Newman being made a Saint!

Sunday August 2nd: Eighteenth Sunday (Green)

- 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. *Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

EIGHTEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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

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

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Tuesday. Exposition on Saturday: 8.30–10.45 a.m.

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

Monday 3rd August: Feria. (Green)

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

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

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

St John Vianney - "the Curé of Ars" - (1786-1859) He was not an academic finding great difficulties in his studies for the priesthood and, as a result, after his ordination, he was chosen for the poorest parish in the diocese. At this time, after the anti-Catholic French Revolution, there were very few priests and the laity was demoralised. By simple and profound teaching, and particularly encouraging confession, which had become a rarity, he drew people back to the Church. News of his gentle wisdom quickly spread and people came from all over France to seek his spiritual direction. He was extraordinarily dedicated to all his pastoral work and for this reason, he is the Patron Saint of Parish Priests.

Wednesday 5th August: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of the Dedication of St Mary Major. (White)

The Dedication of St Mary Major (Our Lady of the Snows): In the 4th century, Our Lady appeared in dreams to Pope Liberius and to a wealthy Roman couple on the same warm August night, and asked for a church to be built in her honour where snow should be reported the next day in the City of Rome. Snow was found to have miraculously fallen on a spot on the Esquiline Hill. The church was erected and in 432, following the declaration of the Council of Ephesus that Our Lady is "the Mother of God", Pope Sixtus III enlarged and enhanced the Basilica as it can be seen today. It is the oldest church dedicated to Our Lady in the West.

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

The Transfiguration: We celebrate the occasion when Our Lord took the Apostles, Peter, James and John to Mount Tabor where they saw Him transfigured in heavenly light; a foretaste of His heavenly glory at the Resurrection.

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

In 258 **Pope St Sixtus II** and four of his deacons were arrested in the catacombs of St Callistus in Rome during Emperor Valerius' persecution, and immediately executed at his command.

St Cajetan (d. 1547) founded the Theatine Congregation of priests to live and work in communities in large cities. He was one of the great reformers working within the Church. His rule of life and work for the Theatines also influenced St Philip Neri in his establishing the Congregation of the Oratory a few years later.

Saturday August 8th: St Dominic, Priest. Memoria. (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 (Nineteenth Sunday) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Dominic (1170-1221) An Augustinian in Spain, his Bishop asked him to join him on a mission to Languedoc, where the Albigensian heretics had a stronghold. Dominic founded the *Order of Preachers* who were highly trained priests bound by vows with an emphasis on poverty. The Dominican order spread rapidly throughout Europe.

August 9th: Nineteenth Sunday of the Year. (Green)

Mass & Service Times:

- **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. Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Michael McCann, Philip McCann, Thelma Havelin, David Pritchard, Michael Drew, William O'Leary, Connie Hayward, Patrick Walsh, Pat Healey, John Rose, Carole Halls, Celia Fernandez and Sr Francis Clare.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Jennifer Rogers;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Philip Lynch of this Oratory, Maria Rosario, Robert Hogan, Kitty Toole, Thomas McGough, Maureen Gilley, Beryl & John O'Driscoll and Florrie Wilson.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, August 8th/9th, The Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: David Doran
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

Seventeenth Sunday: 26th July, 2009

Offertory: £1,531

Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £431

Thank you

TODAY

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF)

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, including the Saturday evening Mass.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will not take place this week.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP (for ages 20-35) next meeting is on Thursday, 6th August at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. There will be a discussion on "Heaven and Hell: Who's up and who's down?" New members welcome. Please phone Richard Winstanley for further details: 07905 601 721.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

118TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARDINAL NEWMAN'S DEATH:

- (1) **Sunday, 9th August: Prayers at the graveside** at the Oratory House, Leach Green Lane, Rednal will take place at 3 p.m. (Grounds will open at 2.15 p.m.)
- (2) **Tuesday, 11th August:** There will be a Concelebrated Mass (in English) here at 7.30 p.m.

NOTICES

OUR LADY'S 'PILGRIM' STATUE is available for all who wish to welcome Our Lady into their home and deepen their love for her, particularly by saying the Rosary. Our Lady's prayers are all powerful with God. The more we invite her into our hearts, the greater her influence for us with God. She will not only pray for our deepest needs and intentions, but will help us to find the way to a renewal of prayer in our daily lives. In her messages at Fatima, Our Lady pleaded for us to say the Rosary every day. Perhaps having the Statue for a week will help you and your family and friends who may be unfamiliar with the Rosary to develop the love for it which Our Lady so urgently wants.

French male student of music age 22, requires accommodation for the coming academic year: <mailto:treomoric@orange.fr>

VACANCIES — Oratory Primary School

Required for September 09: Two classroom Assistants (Level 2/ Level 3). Further details available on request.

Visits to the school are most welcome.

Call 454 0600 and ask for Mrs C. Dickinson

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK by St. John Vianney:

"We must take great care never to do anything before having said our Morning Prayers . . . The Devil once declared . . . that if he could have the first moment of the day, he was sure of all the rest."