

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.

May 24th 2009: ASCENSION SUNDAY



CHRIST'S GLORY—OUR HOPE

It seems at first that as our Lord is taken from the Apostles' sight, the Ascension is the end of His closeness to them. Might it perhaps have seemed to them rather like hearing that a loved one, whose imminent death had been announced, has then happily seemed to go into remission, only to find that it was a false dawn, and our loved one has been snatched away from us after all?

Yet this was not the Disciples' reaction. St. Mark, the closing passage of whose Gospel we hear today, tells us that at His Ascension Our Lord commanded the Apostles to "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.*" St. Mark then tells us that this is exactly what the Apostles did: "*They went forth and preached everywhere...*" Not only were they clearly not bowed down with grief, but they were also endowed with great courage. Having been locked away in the Upper Room after Our Lord's death "*for fear of the Jews*", they were now no longer afraid to go abroad. This was because, as St. Mark tells us: "*the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it*". So far from being taken from them, Our Lord is with them and works with them. It is only His *bodily presence* that has been taken from them, so that they no longer have *sight* of Him. He is "*with them always, until the end of the world*", as Our Lord promised according to St. Matthew (Mt.28:20), and "*will not leave them orphans*", as St. John writes (Jn. 14:18).

Interestingly, St. John tells us nothing about the Ascension. His Gospel ends with Our Lord's appearance to the Apostles on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee). But it was on that occasion that Our Lord alluded to His future return in glory when He said of St. John "*If I want him to stay behind until I return...*". It is that yet-to-come return on the Last Day which we now await in Hope, which inspires joy in us today, as the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass says: "*Almighty God, make our hearts leap for holy joy in thanksgiving; for Your Son's Ascension is our triumph; and as He, our Head, has gone before us in glory, we, His members are called in hope to follow Him.*" We therefore remind ourselves that this life is not our final destiny. Heaven is our true home, and Christ has gone before us to prepare us a place to be with Him for all eternity.

OUR LADY CROWNED

How fitting it is to honour Our Lady in Eastertide! There are many close parallels between the Saviour and His Mother. Just as He is all-holy and sinless by nature, so is His Mother by redemption. Just as He ascends into heaven in glory at the end of His time on earth, so she is taken up to share in her Son's glory at the end of hers. As He is crowned with glory as the triumphant God-man, she is crowned as the "Woman" of the Apocalypse, the Mother of all who live through redemption by her Son. That is why we crown her image in this month of May, the month of Eastertide, and in close association with her Son's Ascension into glory, and the descent of the Holy Spirit which we will celebrate next Sunday at Pentecost.

So please do come this afternoon to honour her with hymns, and to crown her Queen of our hearts as we crown her image with beautiful Springtime flowers. Children are especially welcome at this Procession and Crowning Ceremony. Their presence and their praises of Mary our Mother give particular joy to her Son and undoubtedly call down great blessings from Christ our Lord upon all who take part, and upon our Parish and our City.

Our Lady Conceived without sin is patroness of our Church and also of our Diocese. Many of you may have watched some or even all of the Mass of installation of Archbishop Vincent Nichols at Westminster last Thursday. He is no longer our Archbishop and in the meantime the Archdiocese is being administered by Bishop Kenney, one of our Auxiliary Bishops. Please pray to Our Lady for him and for a good Archbishop to be appointed to succeed Archbishop Nichols. Pray also for our fellow-Parishioners and friends from the Diocese who are now on the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. May their prayers and penances win many blessings for our Parish and Diocese—So there are plenty of good reasons for us to come this afternoon!

Sunday May 24th: The Solemnity of the Ascension (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)*
- 4.00 p.m. *May Procession*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER: Liturgical Calendar

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

Tuesday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. (No Mass at 5.45 p.m. on Tuesday—see overleaf)

Wednesday to Friday: May Devotions & Novena before Pentecost at 7.45 p.m. (including the Rosary)

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

Monday 25th May: St Bede the Venerable. Memoria. (White). BANK HOLIDAY

- **Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only.**
- **First Vespers of St. Philip at 7.30 p.m.**

St Bede (673-735) A Benedictine monk of humility and great intellect, he spent his life "always writing, always praying, always reading, always teaching." A great biblical scholar and historian, he wrote the famous *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* and he is the only Englishman so far to have been made a Doctor of the Church.

26th May: THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR HOLY FATHER ST PHILIP NERI, Apostle of Rome. (White)

- **Solemn Pontifical Mass at 7.00 p.m. Celebrant & Preacher: Cardinal John Foley (see below)**

Wednesday 27th May: St Augustine of Canterbury, Apostle of England. Memoria. (White)

- **May Devotions including Novena before Pentecost at 7.45 p.m.**

St Augustine of Canterbury (d. c. 601) St Bede tells us much of what is known about St Augustine who was sent by Pope St. Gregory 1 ("the Great") with forty other monks to bring the Catholic Faith to the English. He set up his see at Canterbury, then the capital city of the Kingdom of Kent, where he converted the king, Ethelbert, and his mission prospered as several converts followed. He also founded sees at Rochester and London.

Thursday 28th May: Thursday of Easter Week 7. (White)

- **May Devotions including Novena before Pentecost at 7.45 p.m.**

Friday 29th May: Solemnity of the Dedication of our Church. (White).

- **Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m.**
- **May Devotions including Novena before Pentecost 7.45 p.m.**

Saturday, May 30th: Saturday of Easter Week 7. (White). St Luke Kirby, English Martyr.

- **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 (Solemnity of Pentecost) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Luke Kirby (Martyred 1582) Born in Yorkshire, he became a priest at Douay and came back in 1580, but was soon after betrayed by an apostate priest. Taken to the Tower he was tortured on the "scavenger's daughter", an iron hoop in which the body was compressed, hands, feet and head bound together. Arraigned with Edmund Campion and others, he was not executed till six months later. He declared loyalty to the queen, but would not denounce the Pope, saying his authority was a point of faith.

31st May: Solemnity of Pentecost (Red)

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

Please pray for the sick: Sr Francis Clare, David Dearn, Pat Healey, May Poppins, John Rose, Katie Hayward, Mary Cunliffe, Margaret Casey, John McCann, Patrick Walshe, Raymond Colquhoun and Barry Long. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Bridget Shields and Anna Buiti; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Ambrose St John of this Oratory, Arthur Hawkins, Ada Broomhead, Terry & Sarah Feely, Maureen Stanley, Joe O'Driscoll, Florence Castle, Dominic Adams, Anne Kelly, Fr Anthony Maxwell-Ward and Harold Claude Beesley.

Bridget Shields's funeral is on Friday at 12.45 p.m.
Reception of remains on Thursday at 4.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, May 30th/31st, The Seventh Sunday of Easter:

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

Collections:

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide: 17th May, 2009
Offertory: £1,567
Second: Newman Cause for Beatification: £740
Many Thanks

TODAY

Our MAY PROCESSION takes place today at 4 p.m. This is a lovely occasion, and we ask all of you to attend to honour Our Lady. Parents and grandparents are asked to bring the children in your families (and they may want to wear white, especially those who have recently been Confirmed or have made their First Communion, or are soon to do so). Remember—

Unless we show devotion, we will never grow in devotion!

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for the DDF

TODAY is a day of prayer for the Church in China, which is still subject to terrible hardships and persecution. Faithfulness to Christ and the One True Church He founded still draws a heavy penalty from the Communist authorities, who seek instead to browbeat Catholics into a State-run Church. Bishops and Priests who are faithful to the Pope are especially persecuted. We must support the Catholics of China in as many ways as possible. Prayer cards of *Our Lady of Sheshan* are available at the doors of the church. Please use these to pray for Chinese Catholics.

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

LIFE has organised a Petition to be sent to the Advertising Standards Agency to protest against the proposed screening of adverts for Abortion on TV. Please sign it at the back of the Church if you did not do so last week.

THIS WEEK

ST. PHILIP'S DAY celebrations begin with Solemn First Vespers at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th May, and conclude with Pontifical High Mass, at which the Celebrant and Preacher will be John Cardinal Foley, on Tuesday 26th May at 7 p.m.

MAY DEVOTIONS & NOVENA BEFORE PENTECOST are each weekday evening (except Monday and Tuesday) starting at 7.45 p.m. with the Rosary, and ending with Benediction.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday, beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.45 p.m.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (for ages 20-35) will be joining a larger pilgrimage to St Dominic's Convent and the Shrine of Our Lady of Stone this Saturday, 30th. The trip will include a tour of the convent and museum, Rosary and procession etc. Meet at the Oratory House at 9.30 a.m. to depart promptly at 9.45. Please bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided. Enquiries to Richard: 07905 601721.

The next formal meeting of the group will be on Thursday 4th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. The talk and discussion will be about Islam and Sharia Law.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CORPUS CHRISTI Thursday is June 11th. There will be a High Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 8 p.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY is June 14th when the children of Year 3 in the Oratory Primary School will receive their First Holy communion at the 12 noon Mass, and the outdoor Blessed Sacrament Procession will take place at 4 p.m.

VIGIL OF REPARATION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS & THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY will be held here on the night of 20th June (the Feast of the Sacred Heart). High Mass will be at 8 p.m. and the Vigil will be held in the Cloister Chapel until 3 a.m. Full details to follow.

NOTICES

EASTER DUTIES: The time for fulfilling Easter Duties, that is Confession and Holy Communion, ends in a fortnights time, on Trinity Sunday.