

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.

August 24th 2008: THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

THOU ART PETER... The Provost writes:

The Gospel this weekend contains more words that we can see written up (in Latin) in our church. This time we need to look up into the dome, and there we can read: "Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam..." and so forth. These words are at the very heart of today's passage and they are the word addressed by Our Lord to St Peter, in response to words that Peter himself had uttered.

Our Lord asked His followers what people thought about Him – who did they think He was? The disciples produce a variety of opinions, reflecting the different ideas people had about this extraordinary figure who was teaching and performing miracles. It was St Peter who spoke up with the answer that contained the truth: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." This answer is at the central point of Christian revelation. It is not something that can be deduced by human logic or reasoning – it is God Himself who revealed this. It is an example of what St Thomas Aquinas talked about centuries later in his hymn: "Truth itself speaks truly, else there's nothing true."

Each generation, each individual, has to face up to the question about who Jesus is. Each person has to decide for or against Him. Depending on what sort of an answer we give, the whole of the rest of our lives takes shape. If we think that Jesus of Nazareth was just some holy man, some ethical guide or wise teacher, then we might feel free to accept, amend or reject the teachings and example left us. Many choose to do just that. However, if like St Peter, our hearts and minds accept God's truth in all its freshness and beauty, and we joyfully acknowledge Him as the Son of God and the Saviour of the

world, then everything changes. It might not change all at once – after his great profession of faith Peter went on to deny Our Lord, before being restored to His friendship. But, in the last analysis, like St Peter, like the other Apostles, like countless men and women down the centuries, we will be prepared to risk everything for that faith we have received. We will want to spread it around us; we will want to make sure others receive that precious gift; we will want to defend it, even to shedding our blood if necessary, so that it might be preserved intact. All this flows from answering a question one way rather than another!

The other important area which flows from St Peter's answer concerns the very nature of the Church. The Church rests on the rock of Peter and Peter rests on the Rock of Christ. It is the job of Peter to bind and to loose, to confirm his brethren in the faith. This means that it is a fundamental aspect of the Church to be able to teach with authority, to say that such and such a thing is right and that such and such a thing is wrong. In our faith and morals we have a sure guide in the person of St Peter and his successors the Popes, and in the College of Bishops, the successors of the Apostles. This magisterium, this teaching authority, is vital, so that amidst the varying fashions and fads of the times, we can rely on a sure guide to lead us safely home. This Sunday's readings provide us with an ideal opportunity to pray for St Peter's successor, Pope Benedict XVI, as he seeks to teach, guide and sanctify the Church today.

NEW SHRINE NOTES

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the funds for the Sarcophagus for Cardinal Newman's remains. To date some £8500 has come in. This is a good start – all contributions will be gratefully received. The Architects tell me that the stonemasons have identified a suitable piece of marble at the quarry in Carrara, Italy. I hope to receive photos of it this week.

*(May we ask all those of you who are taxpayers who have made a donation, or who intend to donate, to please consider completing a *Gift Aid Form*. It would help us enormously. Forms are to be found at the back of church.)

Mentioning shrines, I expect many of you will have spotted the picture of St Paul which has gone up in church to mark the special Pauline Year. I hope you approve and that it will be a focus for our prayers. Some of the Fathers remarked that it looked as if it had always been there, which I take as a compliment!

Sunday August 24th: The Twenty-first Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 1

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *1962 rite Mass (in the church)*
- 10.30 a.m. *High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Low Mass (during August)*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Tuesday to Friday:

Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

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

Monday August 25th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Louis of France, King. (White); or of St Joseph Calasanz, Priest. (White)

- **BANK HOLIDAY: Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only**
- **No evening Devotions**

St Louis of France (1214-70) As King of France he became known for his impartial and merciful administration, insisting on each person's rights, regardless of their position in society. He became a Franciscan tertiary, personally caring for lepers. He led two Crusades to the Holy Land to win back territories seized by invading Moslems, and to defend the lives of the persecuted Christians, and he was known as a man of peace.

St Joseph Calasanz (1557-1648) A Spanish graduate of law and of divinity, he became a priest and moved to Rome. He was shocked by the squalor of people's lives and their ignorance, and opened a free school. He soon had followers and so he founded the *Piarists*. Schools were established all over Europe, but a jealous and ambitious subordinate made false accusations against him, and the credit of his Order was not restored until after his death.

Tuesday August 26th: Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest. Feast. (White)

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

Blessed Dominic Barberi (1792-1849) From an Italian peasant family, he learned to read but had no formal education until he joined the Congregation of the Passionists, where his intellect was recognised and he became a teacher of philosophy and theology. In 1841, he was sent to England to establish the Order here, opening four houses. He was a renowned preacher and many were drawn to the Church after hearing him, his most notable convert being Cardinal Newman, whom he received into the Church with two of his companions who also became Oratorian priests.

Wednesday August 27th: St. Monica. Memoria (White)

St Monica (c.331-87) The mother of St Augustine, prayed constantly for her son's conversion from a dissolute life. Her prayers were answered & he was baptised, shortly before her death.

Thursday August 28th: St Augustine of Hippo, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. Memoria (White) St Edmund Arrowsmith, English Martyr.

St Augustine (354-430) (see *St Monica* above). Ordained 4 years after his conversion, he was appointed Bishop of Hippo. He used his extraordinary intellect to defend the Church's teachings and is regarded as one of the most influential Doctors of the Church. His strict monastic rule is still followed by over 150 orders.

St Edmund Arrowsmith: Executed at Lancaster in 1628 for being a "persuader to popery".

Friday August 29th: The Beheading of St John the Baptist. Memoria. (Red)

Beheading of St John (d. c.29) When St John rebuked Herod for marrying his half-brother's wife, Herodias, he was thrown into Prison. In a moment of folly, Herod promised his wife's daughter, Salome, anything she wanted. Prompted by her mother, she asked for the head of St John. Thus, as St Augustine put it: "An oath that was rashly taken was criminally kept."

Saturday August 30th: Blessed Juvenal Ancina, Bishop and Oratorian 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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of Sunday: Twenty-second Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

Blessed Juvenal Ancina (1545-1604) Having studied philosophy and also gaining a Doctorate in medicine at Turin, his vocation led him to the priesthood at the Oratory of St Philip Neri in Rome. St Philip sent him to Naples where he was instrumental in building a magnificent shrine to St Januarius, the city's Patron Saint. Pope Clement VIII appointed him Bishop of Saluzzo where heresy was rife. He worked to reform the lax behaviour of the clergy, announcing the founding of a seminary, and he organised increased devotions to the Blessed Sacrament. Only a year after his appointment as Bishop, he died of suspected poisoning.

Sunday August 31st : The Twenty-second 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. High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **5.30 p.m. Low Mass**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Sr Anne of the Holy Spirit D.C., Brenda O'Donoghue, Carole Halls, Marion Arnott-Job, Evelyn Arrigho, Marie-Therese Jones, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey and Frank McGuinness.

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

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr James Downey, Charles Chavasse, Maria Stepney, John Tuac, Albert Bizec, Louisa Dutton, John Dainty and Thomas Mannion

The following are requested to read next weekend, August 30th/31st: Twenty-second Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections

The Assumption: 15th August:
Offertory: £586
Second: Church Maintenance: £429
20th Sunday of the Year, 17th August:
Offertory: £1,409
Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £406

Many thanks

TODAY

The SECOND COLLECTION is for the Oratory Priests' Training Fund

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall.

N.B. The Sunday 5.30 Mass will not be sung for the whole of August.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY is a BANK HOLIDAY: Masses will be at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only. There will be no evening Devotions.

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON HALL in honour of St. John Wall and the English Martyrs, takes place on Sunday, August 31st. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m. by Bishop Kenney. Tours of the Hall can be made by prior arrangement, by telephoning 01562 777846. Tea is available after Mass. **N.B. Take your own chairs if needed.**

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH OF LINCOLN meets on Saturday, 6th September at 10.15 a.m. in the Oratory House. All are welcome.

HCPT (Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust) is holding a Charity Concert in aid of sending disadvantaged children to Lourdes next Easter, to be given by the Band of the West Midlands Fire Service on Saturday 27th September at 7.30 p.m. in Newman University College. For Tickets (£7 or £5 concessions) ring 07900272094.

NOTICES

READERS AT MASS: If you would like to become a reader at 5.45 p.m. Saturday Mass or at the 8.30 a.m., 12 noon, or 5.30 p.m. Sunday Masses, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please give you name, address, telephone no. and, if appropriate, your email address *in writing* to one of the Fathers, or email the parish secretary (address overleaf).

GOBS PILGRIMAGE CYCLE RIDE: Many of you sponsored a fund-raising cycle ride to Walsingham. The ride was successfully completed and if you have not yet paid your sponsorship money, please would you hand it in at the Oratory House, or to the sacristy, in an envelope appropriately marked. Many thanks.