

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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October 31st 2010: THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS



HOLINESS AND BLESSEDNESS

Blessed John Henry Newman, while still an Anglican, preached a sermon entitled “Holiness Necessary for Future Blessedness”. When he eventually collected together what he judged to be his most important sermons to have them printed, this was the sermon he chose to begin the series, which tells us how significant a subject he thought it was.

The most important point Blessed John Henry wanted to make in that sermon was that “Holiness” is that “without which nobody can see God.” He was quoting the Letter to the Hebrews (ch. 12: v. 14) in order to explain that heaven is a state of bliss *only for those who are already holy*.

The word “saint”, which we use of those who are already enjoying God’s presence in heaven, actually means “holy”. When we talk about “Saint so-and-so” we are not giving him or her a title, but we attach an adjective—“holy” — to them.

The feast which we celebrate on this day is one of the great solemnities of the year, because in it we remind ourselves not only of all the countless persons who have now entered heaven, but also that we

are called by God to join them. But *whether* we will actually do so is not yet certain—nor *how*.

There are those who enter heaven directly at the end of their lives—those special and rare souls who have become completely holy through all the trials of this life, and are therefore already “saints” even at the moment of their passing from this world to the next. The greatest of these, of course, is Our Lady who was totally holy from the very first moment of her existence. But there are other saints who have become holy through a life dedicated to prayer, the sacraments, penance and obedience to God’s commandments.

Then there are still other saints now in heaven who were not yet ready to enter into heaven immediately at the moment of their death. How, then, did they become holy enough to see God and to be blissfully happy for ever in His presence? They had to be cleansed of all their past sins, and to make amends for those sins which, even though they had been forgiven, yet remained to be expiated. Such souls must spend time in a state between death and heaven, during which they gradually become holier, so that they can at last enter joyfully into God’s presence as new Saints. This state between death and heavenly bliss is what we call “Purgatory”, a word meaning “purification” - a state in which those who are destined to go to heaven make their final preparation.

Throughout the coming month of November, which begins with this great celebration of what we all hope one day to be in heaven—Saints—, we continue with prayer on behalf of those souls who are now between death and heaven in this state of purification. Some will be more nearly ready than others. All those who are in this state of preparation, of growing holiness, can have the benefit of our prayers here on earth.

Tuesday of this week is the day on which we especially offer up our prayers and sacrifices for the dead who are now preparing to enter heaven and who are making reparation for the sins they committed in this life. Don’t forget to pray for them on Tuesday. You can gain an Indulgence for them on that day, and also on other days during the month of November when we have many Requiem Masses offered for the souls in Purgatory so that they may enter heaven the sooner. See the notice at the bottom of the next page for details.

Sunday October 31st: The Solemnity of All Saints (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 English Mass*
- 6.30 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 after the 12.45 & 5.45 p.m. Masses.

Holy Hour: Each morning 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.

(For Saturday and Sunday: see over)

Monday 1st November: Feria (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **High Mass for ALL SAINTS Day in the Extraordinary Form at 7.30 p.m.**

Tuesday 2nd November: Commemoration of All Souls. Feria (Black).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **High Requiem Mass (Ordinary Form) at 7.30 p.m.**

Please see the notice below which explains how to gain a Plenary Indulgence for the Holy Souls in Purgatory on this day.

Wednesday 3rd November: St Martin de Porres, Religious. Optional Memoria or: St Winefride, Virgin. Optional Memoria (white). Or Feria (green).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Sung Requiem for Deceased Fathers and Brothers of this Oratory at 5.45 p.m.**

St Martin de Porres (1579-1639) He was of mixed race and the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman. As a youth he was accepted as a lay brother at the Dominican Friary at Lima in Peru, his home town. He was mainly a manual worker, but he quickly showed an aptitude for dealing with delicate matters and his reputation spread so that he became sought after as a spiritual and theological adviser. He was devoted to the sick and poor, and also showed great love of animals, founding an animal hospital with his sister. He did a great deal of penance and was endowed with many graces, such as bilocation.

St Winefride Little is known of this 7th century nun. Her cult is associated with Holywell in Wales, which remains to this day a place of pilgrimage and healing.

Thursday 4th November: St Charles Borromeo. Bishop. Memorial (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Sung Requiem for Deceased Benefactors of this Oratory at 5.45 p.m.**

St Charles (1534-840) At the age of twenty-two he was appointed Cardinal and Archbishop of Milan by his uncle Pope Pius IV. Despite his youth, he quickly became the most outstanding Bishop of counter-reformation Italy, zealously putting the decrees of the Council of Trent into effect, insisting on the dignity of the liturgy. He cared for the sick needy using his own means to assist the. He was a friend of our St Philip.

Friday 5th November: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **Stations of the Cross for the Faithful Departed after the 5.45 Mass**

Saturday 6th November: Our Lady on Saturday (White); or Feria. (Green).

- **Low Masses: at 8 a.m., and in Latin (EF) at 9.30 a.m. in the Shrine.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—concluding with Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Pilgrim Mass at 11 a.m. followed by prayers in Bl John Henry's Shrine.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time) at 5.30 p.m.**

November 7th: The thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Low Latin Mass (1962 missal)**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass**
- **12.00 noon Family Mass**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational English Mass**
- **6.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction (please note new time)**

Please pray for the sick: Karen Ratchford, Yvonne Pilsbury, Louise Pilsbury, Patrick Brown, Jacqueline Griffiths, Ann McDonagh, James Foy-nes, Nick Usher-Somers, Miles Drew, Harold Johnson and Brenda Molloy.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Patrick Walshe, Katherine Doran and Mary Davis

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Charles Heurtley of this Oratory, Zillah Nicholls, Mary Boswell, Terence Brunt, Ellen & Frank Gardner, Arthur Girling and Mary Crossley.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, November 6th/7th 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday 5.30 p.m: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections last week:

The thirtieth Sunday:
24th October, 2010
Offertory: £1,598

Second Collection: A.P. F.: £612

Organ (for shrine) Fund £574
Many thanks

TODAY

THE PIETY STALL is now open on Saturdays until evening Mass, and after all Sunday morning Masses and on Sunday afternoons. Medals, rosaries and other commemorative items of the beatification of Blessed John Henry Newman are on sale, together with books about him, and of his own writings and also, the Official Record of the Pope's State Visit. Christmas cards (including those sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need), Nativity sets, Advent Calendars, calendars, diaries and other Christmas items are on sale. In the run-up to Christmas, we will again be opening after the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses.

THIS WEEK

There will be a HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each day this week, and Adoration from 8.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. on Saturday.

ALL SOULS DAY Masses are at the usual times on Tuesday with the addition of High Mass at 7.30 p.m. Other Masses will be offered during the course of the morning in the Ordinary and Extraordinary form. Please enquire at the sacristy.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are prayed for the Faithful Departed on Fridays in November after the 5.45 Mass.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS (21-35) next meet at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 4th November, in the Oratory House. Fr Tim Finigan will give a talk on "Christian Freedom and Conscience"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND will be for the Johnsons Fund which takes care of sick and retired Diocesan Priests.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES organised by the Knights of Malta, Hospitalier Limited, takes place from Friday April 29th to Friday May 6th 2011. Each year they take sick, disabled and aged pilgrims, providing nursing and medical care. Invitations are invited from those categories. The accommodation is in the Accueil Notre Dame, and pilgrims are asked to make a contribution of £260 towards the cost of £550, but this can be reduced in cases of need. Anything over £260 would be gratefully received to help those who can afford very little. For booking form etc please contact Adrian de Redman: 0121 608 5496

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SOULS ON NOVEMBER 2nd AND THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

1. Tuesday is All Souls Day. To obtain a Plenary Indulgence for the Faithful Departed on this day, visit a Church or Chapel ONCE ONLY and pray the Our Father and the Creed. You must also be in a state of grace (by going to confession and communion) and pray for the Holy Father's intentions. Remember the teaching of Scripture that "it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins". (2 Maccabees 12:46) Our prayer for them is an act of love and will not be forgotten.

2. Throughout the month of November the Church continues to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory to help them reach heaven quicker. Papers are to be found at the doors of the church for you to list the names of the dead for whom you wish prayers to be offered during the month of the Holy Souls. Please then put your paper in the special box at the Holy Souls' Altar (on the left-hand side of the church). Please do not put money in the box. Money for Masses must be given in at the Sacristy, or on weekdays at the Oratory House.