

# 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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*This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.*

## January 17th 2010: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### ' DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU'



The event of the Wedding Feast at Cana in today's Gospel is the third in the three great Manifestations or Appearances of the Lord: the Epiphany, the Baptism and the Miracle of the Water and Wine. These were celebrated in the Early Church as inaugurating the Divine Mission of our Saviour.

This saving mission continues in today's Mass, and in every Mass.

Which of us has not known the sense of catastrophe experienced by this young couple on learning that the wine was running out? The desperation of the unemployed, the sick, the unprotected is the daily reality of millions. Here, a marriage, not just between two youngsters, but between two families was at stake: Cana was the making or breaking of a new alliance.

'The mother of Jesus was there'. She said: 'They have no wine'. He replied 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not yet come.'

Cardinal Newman, commenting on this passage, observed that when His 'hour' was come, the 'hour' of His Passion, the Mother of Jesus would be there, as Mother also of the redeemed. At Calvary she took part in the work of our salvation. 'Behold your Mother'.

That is what the little family at Cana did. They 'invited her' to their wedding. They knew her for who she was. She was their mother too. We do well to follow them. They wanted her. They didn't know her Son or His disciples yet, but their generosity insisted on inviting them. The result was the 'first of the signs' whereby the Glory of God

was made known. To whom? To a poor family in a hidden corner of the Holy Land.

How many people saw the Glory? Yet the Church proclaims it down the centuries. The presence of God amid the apparent emptiness of our world is a reality for those who will persist in prayer and seek to follow what Our Lady says: 'Do whatever He tells you' This is the model for our families too.

Cana is one of the few moments when she speaks in the Gospels: Whatever he tells you? How pointless to fill the empty jars with water! When we are dry and empty, must we follow out the drudgery of a futile obedience? Yet in the very act of a dreary duty, it is we who are filled. The miracle of our communion with God, is enacted, unseen, unsignalled, yet accomplished. God becomes our provision. Through the Holy Eucharist, in every Mass, the miracle is renewed: the Real Presence announces God's wedding with his people

Only the poor couple, and the stewards who drew the water saw the miracle. They had now become one with his disciples, To them, 'He let his glory be seen'.

For us too, it is thus. Sometimes people ask why is a miracle looked for in the beatification of a saint? Just recently a well known Catholic periodical published an article declaring that 'the Church's reliance on miracles strains credibility'. The author considered that in the 'the case of John Henry Newman' the requirement of a miracle 'could turn his impending beatification into an embarrassment'. For whom? Not, presumably, for the beneficiary of the miracle, Deacon Jack Sullivan? Not surely, to those who came to listen to his unforgettable witness to the power of God? His visit to the Oratories and to Westminster Cathedral was an occasion of grace and an unforgettable 'sign' of God's continuing presence.

Not so, for the author of the article in question. He is persuaded that 'the vast majority of English Catholics' share his 'scepticism'. They 'may even feel' he considers 'that the association of Newman's name with such a requirement rather de-mans him.' Newman, after all had 'no wish to be recognized as a saint'.

Well, that is something he holds in common with the other saints, to be sure. 'So why' asks our author, 'should he, from his place in heaven, want to help that process along?'

Could it be because God wants it? That He still allows His Glory to be seen, for those who want to see it, in His Saints? God, as the Church believes is 'glorious in His Saints'.

### Sunday January 17th: The Second Sunday of the Year (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. *Vespers and Benediction*

### Liturgical Calendar

*Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 2 in the Divine Office*

*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 18th January: Feria (Green).** Day of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

**Tuesday 19th January: St Wulstan, Bishop. Feast. (White)**

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

**St Wulstan** (1009-95) Born in Warwickshire, he studied at the Abbeys of Evesham & Peterborough before joining the Benedictines. He was appointed Bishop of Worcester in 1062 and was the only bishop who retained his See following the Norman Conquest. Famous for his pastoral zeal, enforcing discipline in the clergy, he insisted on priestly celibacy. He also fought the slave trade operating from Bristol. Despite his high office, he maintained a monastic regime in his own life, re-founding a monastery. He also built many new parishes.

**Wednesday 20th January: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of St Fabian, Pope & Martyr. (Red); or of St Sebastian, Martyr. (Red)**

**St Fabian:** A Roman, he was elected Pope in 236 at a time when persecution of Christians had declined, which enabled him to do much to expand the Church. But when Decius became emperor in 249, persecution resumed with a vengeance and St Fabian was martyred in 250. Contemporary writers described him as a very holy man.  
**St Sebastian** (d.288) An officer in Diocletian's Imperial Guard, his conversion led to the order for his execution by being shot with arrows. When this failed, he pleaded with the Emperor for tolerance towards Christians; for this he was clubbed to death.

**Thursday 21st January: St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr (Red); or St Alban Roe, English Martyr. (Red). Memorias.**

**St Agnes** was martyred as a Christian aged only twelve, in 304 during the Diocletian persecutions. She had refused to give up her virginity which she had consecrated to God. She is included in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

**St Alban Roe** (c.1580-1642) Following his conversion, he joined the Benedictines in France returning to England in 1615. He worked very successfully until his arrest and banishment on two occasions. Returning and working secretly, he was arrested for the last time in 1625 and remained in prison for several years with an agonizing illness before being martyred at Tyburn with Thomas Reynolds, another priest.

**Friday 22nd January: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Vincent of Saragossa, Martyr. (Red)**

**St Vincent of Saragossa** was a Spanish deacon and was martyred in 304 during the last great persecution of the Church under the Emperor Diocletian.

**Saturday 23rd January: Our Lady on Saturday. (White) or Feria. (Green); or optional memoria of St Nicholas Owen, English Martyr. (Red)**

- **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 (The Third Sunday of the Year) at 5.45 p.m.**

**St Nicholas Owen** A Jesuit lay brother and craftsman, he used his skills to build priests' hiding places during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. The most famous examples

are to be found at Harvington Hall. He was captured in 1594 and tortured, but released. However, in 1606, in order to protect priests hiding nearby, he gave himself up. He died at the hands of the torturers but revealed nothing to them.

**January 24th: The Third 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. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

**Please pray for the sick:** Tony, Susan and Sally Farmer, Philip Kilroy, Pat Cartwright, Leroy McCoy, Carolyn Knight, David Pritchard, James Foynes, Michael McCann and Philip McCann.

**Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Robert Eaton of this Oratory, Elsie Harris, Ian Johnstone and Patrick & Kathleen Belton.

Maureen Leyland's funeral is on Monday at 12.45 p.m.  
Reception of remains: Sunday at 4.30 p.m.  
Thomas Gilrairie's funeral is on Tuesday at 12.45 p.m.  
Reception of remains before Mass

**The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, January 23rd/24th, The Third Sunday of the Year:**

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck  
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins  
12.00 p.m.: Morag Marinoni  
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

**Collections:**

The Baptism of Our Lord: 10th January, 2010  
Offertory: £1,226  
Second: DDF: £387  
Retiring Collection; SPUC: £555  
Crib Collection: Survive Miva: £737  
**Many Thanks**

#### TODAY

**THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND** will be for the Diocesan Development Fund.

**THE PIETY STALL is open** after all Sunday Masses (including after the Saturday 5.45 p.m. Mass) The 2010 Diocesan Directory is on sale and all 2010 calendars are reduced in price.

**THE ANNUAL SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** organised by 'Edgbaston & Ladywood Christians Together' takes place today at 3 p.m. at the Church of the Redeemer, Monument Road. All are welcome.

**CARDINAL NEWMAN HERITAGE PROJECT:** The Oratory Primary School's very interesting exhibition which covers aspects of life in Ladywood in the past can still be viewed in the Cloister Buildings this weekend, but won't be there much longer so don't miss the opportunity!

**THE LIST OF WINNING TICKETS from the EPIPHANY PRIZE DRAW** is posted in the Notice Board to the right of the main church doors. If you are a winner, please collect your prize from the Lower Cloister Hall after Sunday Masses, or telephone the Oratory House, Monday to Friday, (normal office hours) to arrange for collection.

#### THIS WEEK

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will not take place at Rednal this week. However, instead, we will have Adoration on Monday in the Cloister Chapel,

commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. followed by Exposition and ending with Benediction at c.4.45 p.m.

**BROTHERS OF THE LITTLE ORATORY** meet on Tuesdays after Benediction in St Philip's Chapel. All men are welcome.

**UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS** also meets on Tuesday evenings after Benediction, in the Lower Cloister Hall. (It is not necessary to be a mother to be a member.)

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**The ANNUAL MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK** will take place on Saturday, February 6th at 11 a.m. Forms for those eligible and who wish to receive the Sacrament are available at the doors of the church. Lunch will be available after Mass at a cost of £5. *This must also be booked by completion of the appropriate section of the form.*

#### NOTICES

**CATHOLIC SINGLES** is an organisation which helps single, widowed, separated and divorced Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet. For more information please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website [www.catholicingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicingles.org.uk) or email [info@catholicingles.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicingles.org.uk) Please note that whilst we have many separated & divorced Catholics amongst our members, we do not encourage them to remarry, though they do of course meet socially and for friendship.

#### YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

From Saint John Mary Vianney we can learn to put our unflinching trust in the sacrament of Penance, and to take up the "dialogue of salvation" which it entails. The Curé of Ars dealt with different penitents in different ways. Those who came to his confessional drawn by a deep and humble longing for God's forgiveness found in him the encouragement to plunge into the "flood of divine mercy" which sweeps everything away by its vehemence. If someone was troubled by the thought of his own frailty and inconstancy, and fearful of sinning again, the Curé would unveil the mystery of God's love in these beautiful and touching words: "The good Lord knows everything. Even before you confess, he already knows that you will sin again, yet he still forgives you. How great is the love of our God: he even forces himself to forget the future, so that he can grant us his forgiveness