

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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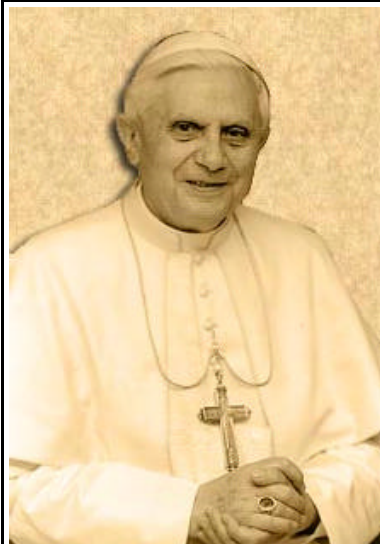
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April 18th 2010: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE



ARREST THE POPE?

Last Monday's "Times" newspaper carried an article on p. 23 by the self-styled "*Deist and Cradle Catholic, albeit long alienated*" journalist and broadcaster, Libby Purves, entitled: "**Arrest the Pope? I rather think we should**".

This arose from the recent announcement by two fanatical atheists, Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, that they intend to try and have the Pope arrested and put on trial for "Crimes against humanity", should he have the effrontery to set foot in this country next September. Dawkins is the author of a book entitled "The God Delusion"; and Hitchens once presented a television documentary in which he strove to persuade us that Mother Teresa of Calcutta was some kind of evil right-wing political ogress.

Nobody should be shocked to learn that these ranters have said something extreme against the Pope, any more than you should be taken aback to be told that penguins have been seen walking around the Antarctic. But as for Libby? What does she mean when she says: "*I rather think we should*" arrest the Pope? Can you imagine anyone saying of a mass murderer, "*I rather think we should arrest him*"? Come off it, Libby! If someone is a criminal, or is suspected of being one, then he (or she) *ought* to be arrested and tried—no "*rather*" about it. I can only conclude that Libby is *rather* doubtful about the rightness of the whole thing but is still happy to climb onto the anti-Pope bandwagon.

So what is driving this bandwagon? The heart of it is the Pope's allegedly trying to protect all the paedophile priests in the world. Yet in fact he has been responsible more than any one else in the upper levels of the hierarchy for identifying and then dealing with this problem. As Cardinal Ratzinger, shortly before he was elected Pope, he spoke very forthrightly about priests who had abused their sacred trust in this hateful way, as having brought "filth" into the Church. Now some journalists have attempted to show that back in 1985 Cardinal Ratzinger tried to hush such an abuse case up to protect the Church's reputation. But this is based on a misreading of the document. It's not surprising if journalists misunderstand such documents, since few of them know Canon Law, or are fluent in Latin. This letter (signed by Cardinal Ratzinger) deals only with the matter of a *priest who had already been removed from active ministry, convicted and sent to prison*. The reference in the letter to the Church's reputation addresses the scandal of too many priests being summarily laicised (i.e. having their priestly orders and duties taken from them and returning to the lay state), while many lay people at the same time could not so easily find dispensation from their marriage vows.

But why should people want to misrepresent and attack the Pope? It's very simple. They want to neutralise the Pope's authority to speak out on moral issues. And it's not just Catholics who support the Pope who say this. Here's what the famous Jewish former Mayor of New York, Ed Koch, said about the affair this week: "*I believe the continuing attacks by the media on the Roman Catholic Church and Pope Benedict XVI have become manifestations of anti-Catholicism. The procession of articles on the same events are, in my opinion, no longer intended to inform, but simply to castigate*".

How does he explain the abuse? "*The primary explanation for the abuse that happened - not to excuse the retention of priests in positions that enabled them to continue to harm children - was the belief that the priests could be cured by psychotherapy, a theory now long discarded by the medical profession. Regrettably, it is also likely that years ago the abuse of children was not taken as seriously as today. Thank God we've progressed on that issue*".

And the attack on the Church? "*Many of those in the media who are pounding on the Church and the Pope today clearly do it with delight, and some with malice. The reason, I believe, for the constant assaults is that there are many in the media, and some Catholics as well as many in the public who object to and are incensed by positions the Church holds, including opposition to all abortions, opposition to gay sex and same-sex marriage, retention of celibacy rules for priests, exclusion of women from the clergy, opposition to birth control measures involving condoms and prescription drugs and opposition to civil divorce. The Church has the right to demand fulfilment of all of its religious obligations by its parishioners, and indeed a right to espouse its beliefs generally*". These are indeed wise words! Please pass them on to all who are understandably worried or confused by what is happening to the Church and the Pope in these days.

Sunday April 18th: Third Sunday of Eastertide (White)

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. 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 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 19th April: Monday of Easter (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Adoration in the Cloister Chapel; Holy Mass 2.30—Benediction 4.30 p.m.**
- **Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m.**

Tuesday 20th April: Tuesday of Easter (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 21st April: Wednesday of Easter (White) Optional memoria of St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St Anselm (d.1109) An influential theologian and philosopher and an Italian Abbot in a Norman Monastery, he was invited by William II to be Archbishop of Canterbury, but his battles with the crown over its attempts to rule the Church led to periods of exile. He was a renowned also for his spirituality, sensitivity, generosity and his great work in the ordination of native Englishmen, and in fighting against slavery.

Thursday 22nd April: Thursday of Easter (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

Friday 23rd April: Solemnity of St George, Patron of England (Red)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m.**

St George: He was martyred during the Diocletian persecutions, probably in Palestine. Venerated there from early times, his popularity here spread during the Crusades.

Saturday 24th April: Saturday of Easter (White). Optional memorias of St Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr. (Red); or of St Fidelis, Priest & Martyr. (Red)

- **Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**
- **Latin Mass 1962 Missal at 9.30 a.m. in St Philip's Chapel**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 1.55 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Adalbert of Prague (956-997) preached in Poland, Hungary and Russia converting thousands, and was styled "Apostle of the Slavs". He was martyred near Danzig.

St Fidelis of Simarigen (1577-1622) A German lawyer he became known as the "Advocate of the Poor" but found his true vocation as a Capuchin. He became a missionary in Switzerland but his great success worried the ruling Calvinists and they invented the story that he was an Austrian spy which led to his murder.

April 25th: The Fourth Sunday of Easter : (White)

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 Dennis Grigg, Marilyn Ryan, Mary Shafer, Geoff Jones, Kevan Bleach, Pat Cartwright, Carolyn Knight, David Pritchard, Elizabeth Caswell, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, Jeff Haines, Jean Haines and Tony Farmer.
Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Jack Price;
and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: May Wall, Gelsomnio Pulisciano, James Barney, Reenie Byrne, Geoffrey Nutter and Danuta Szyzyk

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, April 24th/25th The Fourth Sunday of Easter:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

Divine Mercy Sunday : 11th April, 2010
Offertory: £1,596
Second: Beatification Fund: £1,190

Many Thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND will be for the maintenance of St Chad's Cathedral.

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.

THIS WEEK

There will be A HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning until further notice to pray for the success of Cardinal Newman's beatification and the Pope's visit.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place on Monday afternoon in the Cloister Chapel. There will be Holy Mass (at 2.30 p.m.), the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayers and the afternoon will end with Benediction at c. 4.30 p.m.

LATIN LOW MASS (Tridentine) 1962 MISSAL on Saturday morning in St Philip's Chapel will be said every week at 9.30.

PRO-LIFE CHAIN organised by SPUC will take place this **Saturday, 24th** on Hagley Road, near the Plough & Harrow, from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. The chain is a peaceful and silent kerbside vigil where the pro-life message is witnessed by thousands of passing motorists. Please join the chain to show your support for a renewed culture of life in this country. For more details contact Gill Bowen: 454 8517

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OSCOTT COLLEGE PUBLIC LECTURE on Friday 30th April at 8 p.m.

will be on Cardinal Newman and will be given by Fr Richard (Duffield). Please see poster for more details.

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION Re-Union Buffet lunch takes place at the School on Saturday May 15th. Please note that this is a Ticket Only event and *tickets must be purchased in advance by Saturday 24th April*. Cost £11.50. Please contact Mrs Pat Bishop, 97 Haunch Lane, Kings Heath: 443 3274 for full details. (Open to all former pupils.)

'IN VOCATION 2010' As part of the preparations for the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to England young men and women between the ages of 16-35 are invited to attend a unique national vocations discernment weekend at Oscott College on 2-4 July. The event is aimed at young adults who are serious about their faith and are seeking their vocation in life. For more details please see www.invocation.org.uk The cost of the weekend is £50, but help may be available if the cost is prohibitive.

NOTICES

ANNIE BRIGHT WESTON RESIDENTIAL HOME (Sisters of Charity of St Paul) in Norfolk Road have another vacancy of a single bedroom for a lady over 65 years of age in their residential home. (Please note: this is not a nursing home). It has its own chapel and Mass is celebrated most days. For further information, please contact the manager on 0121 454 1289.

APF RED BOX HOLDERS: Please collect your replacement boxes from the sacristy if you have not yet done so. Many thanks.

During Paschaltide, instead of the *Angelus*, we pray Our Lady's Easter Antiphon:

REGINA CAELI

Regina Caeli, lactare, Alleluia!
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!
Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!
Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!

Then:

Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!
He whom you were fit to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised has arisen, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God your prayer, Alleluia!

Let us pray: O God, who have graciously given joy to the world in the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ; grant, we pray, that through His mother the Virgin Mary, we may attain to the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

