

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School contact:

dickinsonc@oratory.bham.sch.uk



November 21st 2010: THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING



THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST CRUCIFIED

A defeated King is a sorry spectacle. Very often in history a King defeated in battle is mocked and humiliated by his foes, before being maimed or, more usually, killed.

The Evangelists tell us that at the crucifixion, Our Lord was bitterly taunted by the Chief Priests and the leaders of the people on account of His claim to be a King. In today's Gospel reading, for instance, St. Luke tells us that the soldiers joined in with this spirit of mockery, saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

Pilate even had written out on Our Lord's Cross the title "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews". In the only truly decisive action he took in the entire process of Our Lord's trial and condemnation, Pilate said to the Chief Priests who refused to acknowledge Christ's kingship, "What I have written, I have written!"

Exactly why Pilate insisted on this title, "King of the Jews", we do not know for certain. It seems possible, however, that he may have had at least two quite different reasons in mind. One was not so much to humiliate Christ, as those who had had Him condemned to death. "Here is your King!" Pilate had said as he presented the scourged Christ to the Chief Priests and the people—a fitting King for people such as you, he might have thought—covered with blood and wrapped in a purple robe. Purple was indeed the colour of kingship, but it was put on Jesus then by the Roman soldiers in sheer mockery of His claim to be King of the Jews.

We do know that Pilate was also genuinely worried by his decision to allow the crucifixion to go ahead. His wife had already urgently warned him to have nothing to do with that "just man", and, as St. John tells us, in private conversation he was struck by Jesus's quiet dignity and awesome majesty even in the midst of terrible suffering. This, too, may have influenced Pilate's determination to emphasise Jesus's kingship when he finally gave way to the Chief Priests and allowed them to have Christ crucified.

And yet, despite the mockery and torture, Our Lord remained majestic on the cross. He prayed for His executioners and forgave His enemies. He also showed His Kingship in His gracious recognition of the Good Thief's prayer, "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom", by answering him, "Truly I say to you, this day you will be with Me in Paradise". From this we learn what kind of King Our Lord is. He does not impose His authority on anyone, but invites us instead to recognise how willingly He lays down His life for His people.

On this Sunday we pray especially for all young people, that they may recognise Christ as their King, and acknowledge His rule over their lives. For Jesus tells us that He is "gentle and humble of heart", and He commands us with authority, yet without compulsion, freely to learn to be like Him.

Sunday November 21st: The Solemnity of Christ the King (White)

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal*
- 10.30 a.m. *Solemn Requiem for those fallen in war*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational English Mass*
- 6.30 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 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 22nd November: St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr. Memoria. (Red)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Blessing with St Philip's relic at c. 6.20 p.m.**

St Cecilia (3rd c) There are few facts about her. She was a noblewoman who was martyred and is buried in a beautiful Basilica, named after her in Trastevere, thought to be on the site of a church which she had founded. She is also believed to have written a poem *Passio* in which she speaks of singing to God 'in her heart', and hence, she is the patron saint of music. She is commemorated in our church in a niche above St Philip's shrine, appropriately placed as he was himself a great lover of music. (The 'Oratory' giving us the word 'Oratorio').

Tuesday 23rd November: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of St Clement I, Pope & Martyr. (Red); or of St Columban, Abbot. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

St Clement (1st c.) He was one of the early successors to St Peter, and probably knew him and St Paul. He wrote an important Epistle to the Church at Corinth, which is very early evidence of the Pope's role as arbiter of disputes in the universal Church. He is thought to have been arrested and forced to work in the marble quarries but due to his success in gaining converts there, he was sentenced to death and so martyred by being lashed to an anchor, which is why there are so many marine dedications to him.

St Columban (c. 540-615) A monk from Ireland, he founded abbeys in England, France, and Italy under the strict rule prevalent in Ireland. He suffered greatly for his work, coming into conflict with civil and religious authorities, mainly due to his denouncements of immorality and lax bishops but he exerted a lasting influence on Western civilisation.

Wednesday 24th November: St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Martyrs. Memoria. (Red)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**

St Andrew Dung-Lac & Comps: We commemorate Fr Andrew, a native Vietnamese priest horribly tortured before his beheading in 1839, and another 117 Catholics martyred in Vietnam in 16th-19th centuries. 96 were Vietnamese and 21 foreign missionaries. They included bishops, priests and lay people, many of whom suffered horrible deaths.

Thursday 25th November: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr. (Red).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. ? Rosary after 12.45 and 5.45 Mass**

St Catherine of Alexandria (4th c.) She was a highly intelligent woman who was responsible for the conversion of several pagan philosophers. She was martyred on a spiked wheel at Alexandria in Egypt (the original *Catherine Wheel*) and according to legend, angels brought her body to be laid in a monastery named after her, at Mt Sinai.

Friday 26th November: Feria. (Green)

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

Saturday 27th 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 (First Sunday of Advent) at 5.30 p.m.**

TODAY

The SECOND COLLECTION will be for the National Catholic Youth Service. **THE PIETY STALL is now open all day on Saturdays from 10.30 a.m., after all Sunday morning Masses and on Sunday afternoons. In the run-up to Christmas, we are again open after the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses.** Commemorative items of Bl John Henry are on sale, together with books about him, and by him. **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. We are also selling this year's Royal Mail religious Christmas postage stamps. (Please remember, you help to support the Oratory by using our shop.)**

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.

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

POPE BENEDICT CALLS FOR A WORLD WIDE VIGIL TO SUPPORT HUMAN LIFE to take place on Saturday 27th. The Pope called for the vigil to pray for recognition of the dignity of every human life; for the unborn, their parents, and for an end to abortion & research that destroys embryos. The Vigil for all Nascent Human Life will include prayers for overturning laws that permit the destruction of innocent lives, and for the healing of those who have acted against innocent human life. We will be holding our vigil from the end of the 5.30 Evening Mass until 10 p.m. The Vigil will consist of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with First Vespers and the Office of Readings of the First Sunday of Advent.

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION will meet on Wednesday at Newman House, 29 Harrisons Rd, B15., commencing with Holy mass at 7.30 p.m. Afterwards, Sr Margaret Walsh will speak on her work with asylum seekers in the West Midlands and there will be input from Family Doctors in this field. Although pri-

November 28th: The First Sunday of Advent (Purple)

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. Solemn Vespers and Benediction (please note new time)**

Please pray for the sick Estelle Hindley, David Jenkins, Karen Ratchford, Yvonne Pilsbury, Louise Pilsbury, Jacqueline Griffiths, James Foynes, Tony Colquhoun, Miles Drew, Carolyn Knight, Wendy Eddy, Leroy McCoy, John, Michael and Philip McCann and Brenda Molloy. **Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently:** Sarah Wallis, Michael Morgan and Nick Usher-Somers; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Blaise Rosario, Nance Owen, William Corbett, Fr Roland Gierak, Cyril Harrison, Kitty McQuaid, George Heron and Esther Devere

Nick Usher-Somers' funeral is on Monday at 11 a.m. Reception of remains before Mass.
Edna Dean's funeral is on Wednesday at 9.30 a.m. Reception of remains: Tuesday at 5.00 p.m.
Sarah Wallis' funeral is on Friday at 11 a.m. Reception of remains before Mass

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, November 27th/28th First Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5.30 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Peter Bateman
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections last week:

Thirty-third Sunday: 14th November, 2010
Offerory: £1,588
Second Collection: Newman Cause: £640
Organ (for shrine) Fund £150
Many thanks

marily aimed at those involved in healthcare, the meeting is open to ALL, including students in all faculties. There will be a (free) light buffet and for catering, please email John Kelly: kellyj1931@googlemail.com no later than three days before the meeting if you will be attending.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our ADVENT TALKS will be held, as usual in the Lower Cloister Hall commencing on Saturday December 4th, and continuing on the 11th, and 18th immediately after the Prayers in the Shrine which follow the 11 a.m. Mass. (i.e. about 12.15 p.m.). The first talk will be given by Fr Richard on Blessed John Henry's Advent Sermons.

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (Vernon Rd) **SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PANTO & PARTY** will be on Wednesday 15 December commencing at 1.30 p.m. "We would like to invite you to join us for festive food and drink, Father Christmas, Bingo, good company and a great fun-filled afternoon". Please call Sheila Pellowe on 0121 454 0895 if you would like to attend. **ST ANNE'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE** is on Saturday 4th December to Support IWIC to raise money to provide a range of services to the Irish and wider community of Birmingham: St Anne's Parish Centre, Alcester St from 12-3 p.m.

NOTICES

CARE HOME VACANCY: Sisters of Charity of Saint Paul - Annie Bright Weston House, 6 Norfolk Rd has a vacancy for an elderly lady. For more details please ring Mrs Tina Boyland on 454 1289.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES organised by the Knights of Malta takes place from April 29th to May 6th 2011. Applications are invited from sick, disabled and aged pilgrims. (Nursing and medical care is provided). Accommodation is in the Aceuil Notre Dame. Pilgrims are asked to pay £260 towards the cost of £550. 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