

# 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.*

## September 9th 2007: The Twenty-third Sunday of the Year

### WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE A TRUE FOLLOWER OF OUR LORD?

Today's Gospel contains one of our Lord's "hard" teachings. Even by Our Lord's own account, being His follower is not easy. There are choices to be made, and consequences to be taken on board. We cannot *share* priority between our Lord and other human persons, even our relations. Our Lord must come first always. This is not because He is egotistical or tyrannical. He does not argue that we should put Him first for *His* sake, but for our own. Many great men and women have put this teaching into practice. For instance, think how Cardinal Newman refused to allow his very real and deep love for his family and friends to prevent him from following the light of truth and conscience when he decided that God was calling him into the Catholic Church. He could so easily have told himself that he should not become a Catholic since it would upset his family. Yet he chose to do so, despite the cost to himself of losing contact with so many loved ones, simply because he knew the consequences of not following God's call would be more terrible in the long run. Had he failed to do so, who can tell the consequences for him, let alone for us? To put anyone above God is to choose a creature over the Creator. It may seem necessary at the time we have to make the choice, and for a short time it may even seem to be the right thing, but in the final analysis it cannot work. In the long run, without God we lose focus and our eternal destiny may be lost.

This is what Our Lord means when He also says that "no one can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions." We cannot serve two masters. God Himself has given us everything we have—our family, friends, our talents and possessions. We owe all to Him and we will have to surrender all to Him at the end of our lives. We can take nothing away with us when we die, only what we have done with all that God has entrusted to us. That is why it is essential to make the right choices now regarding the priority God has in our daily lives.

This requires prayer and courage. Again, the great saints show us the way. They knew they could not rely on themselves, but only on God's grace. For instance, St. Paul had the courage by God's grace to admit that he had been totally wrong about Our Lord, and came humbly to those whom he had been persecuting so viciously in order to ask for forgiveness and acceptance, knowing how much they would fear and distrust him at first. Yet his prayerful trust in Our Lord won through. Had he failed to do this, who can tell the consequences for him, or for the entire history of the Church?

### HUMAN-ANIMAL EMBRYO RESEARCH

Many of you will have heard that The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has approved plans to create human-animal hybrid embryos for research. There are grave ethical and moral objections to this research, and many people naturally and rightly reject such a horrible exploitation of human embryos. Some supporters of this research claim that most ordinary people who object to the idea are acting irrationally. They call this the "yuk" factor. Once people know the benefits that, it is claimed, such research will bring, they will no longer be opposed to it. Patients with degenerative diseases are again being exploited. Back in 1990, parents of cystic fibrosis children, Parkinson's patients and others were led to believe that creating and killing human embryos was the only hope for treating such conditions. That was a lie and, 17 years on, not a single successful treatment has been developed for any disease from human embryo stem-cell research. On the other hand, the Church *does* approve and encourage research carried out on stem cells taken from adults and from babies' umbilical cords. Moreover, this form of stem-cell research is easier to conduct, less expensive to run and more fruitful in its results so far.

So why do scientists want to experiment ever more daringly with human embryos? Not on account of any real benefit to sick or disabled persons, but simply for the freedom to find out just what they are capable of doing. It is a great temptation to do something simply because you *can*, and not take account of whether it is *good*. In this we can recognise the same temptation as the original one in the Garden of Eden. Misled by the Devil's guile, our first parents were persuaded that disobedience to God's command was the better course, yet it brought a terrible curse on the human race, alienating us from the knowledge and love of God our Creator. So now in embryo research the individual human person is sacrificed to some vague unquantifiable hope of future good. But it is never right to do anything evil even if the final intention seems good. We may never create or manipulate a human individual, however small or humble, simply for someone else's ends, much less out of mere curiosity. You may find yourselves being quizzed by colleagues or relatives about the Church's attitude to these things. It is therefore important to try and understand as simply yet as accurately as possible just what the issues are at stake. Literature is available at the Church doors to enable you to inform yourselves about these matters.

### Sunday September 9th: The 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green)

*Year 3 or C of the Lectionary at Mass*

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 10.30 a.m. *High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 12.45 p.m. *Tridentine Mass (in the Cloister Chapel)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- *Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m.*

### The TWENTY-THIRD WEEK OF THE YEAR: Liturgical Calendar

*Monday to Friday: (See overleaf for additional Devotions)*

*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 September 10th: Feria (Green) or Optional memorias of St Egwin, Bishop. (White) or of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa, Franciscan Missionary (White) St Ambrose Barlow, English Priest and Martyr**

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

**St Egwin** (early 8th century): Bishop of Worcester, he is remembered for having established the shrine of Our Lady at Evesham, on the site of the first known appearance of Our Lady in our land.

**Blessed Agnellus** (d. 1236) was one of the first Franciscans sent to England by St Francis in person. He founded the first friaries in Canterbury, London and Oxford.

**St. Ambrose Barlow** of Barlows Hall, Manchester, became a Benedictine Monk and ministered in his native Lancashire until his arrest in 1641. Martyred at Lancaster.

**Tuesday September 11th: Feria. (Green)**

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction

**Wednesday September 12th: Feria. (Green) or Optional memoria of The Most Holy Name of Mary (White)**

The commemoration of the **Holy Name of Mary** was restored recently to the calendar following the celebration of her birth on September 8th.

**Thursday September 13th: St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor. Memoria (White)**

**St John** nicknamed "Golden-mouth" (Greek: *Chrysóstomos*) because of his great eloquence as a preacher, was a renowned Bishop of Constantinople, where he defended the poor against the Emperor and the powerful nobles at the royal court in that city. On account of this he was exiled from the city twice.

**Friday September 14th: Feria. The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Feast. (Red)**

The Exaltation of the Cross commemorates Our Lord's triumph over sin and death, and the redemption He won for us by His obedience even to death on the cross. This feast celebrates the joyful aspect of the victorious sufferings of Our Saviour on Good Friday.

**Saturday September 15th: The Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Memoria. (White)**

- **Mass 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**
- **Vigil Mass of the TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR at 5.45 p.m. (Green)**

**Our Lady of Sorrows** commemorates all the sufferings that Our Lady endured perfectly in union with her divine Son, but especially at the foot of the cross. The Church believes that these sufferings are part of Our Lady's special mission of co-operation

**Sunday September 16th: The TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Green)**

**Mass Times:**

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **10.30 a.m. High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **12.45 p.m. In the Tridentine Rite (In the Cloister Chapel)**
- **5.30 p.m. Low Mass**
- **Vespers and Benediction: 7.30**

**Please pray for the sick:** Fr. Richard Dinnis, Desmond Williams, Carole Halls, Barbara Carey, Elizabeth Snape, Edward Snape, Mary Mackay, John McCann, John Murphy, Frank McGuinness, Karen Scragg, Kerry Mooney, Margaret Corbett, Ann Stokes and Emily Nugent.

**Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Patrick Doherty; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Austin Mills of this Oratory, and James Hogan.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, September 15th/16th,**

**Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year:**

**Saturday 5.45 p.m.:** Jenni Hardwick  
**Sunday 8.30 a.m.:** Murray Wilson-Browne  
**12.00 p.m.:** Peter Leather  
**5.30 p.m.:** Jason Mahoney

**Collections:**

**Twenty-second Sunday, 2nd September:**  
Offertory: £1,345  
Second: DDF: £386  
Thank you.

**The Second Collection today will be for Aid to the Church in Need**

**Next week's Second Collection will be for Fr. Hudson's Society**

### TODAY

**Today is RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY.** Please remember this in your prayers. **TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION** will be for Aid to the Church in Need.

### THIS WEEK

**HAGLEY ROAD: Next Sunday there will be a Marathon run from 9.30 to 12 noon. During this time it will be possible to cross over at Five Ways Traffic Island, so that access to the Oratory can be made via Ladywood Middleway, Monument Road and Plough & Harrow Road. Exiting Plough & Harrow Rd will be possible via Beaufort Rd.**

**AFTERNOON OF ADORATION AND PRAYER AT REDNAL** will take place on Wednesday commencing with Holy Mass at 2.30 p.m. followed by Exposition, and ending with Benediction.

**The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** meets on Tuesday 11th September from 12—2 p.m. Jackie Parkes writes: "We will be reading Pope Benedict XVI's book 'Jesus of Nazareth' and you will need your own copy. It is available at the Piety Stall at the special offer price of £12.95". New members welcome. Contact Jackie on 688 4154

**CANDLES FOR FORTY HOURS** will go on sale after Mass next Sunday.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**The SECOND COLLECTION next Sunday** will be for Fr Hudson's Society, the social care agency for our Archdiocese. Please take an envelope for your donation and return it to the second collection next weekend.

**A NEW BOOK: 'John Henry Newman In His Time'** which, amongst others, includes chapters by Fr Paul Chavasse and Fr Daniel Seward, who preached here on August 11th, will be launched in Birmingham on September 11th at 4.30 p.m. in the Upper Cloister Hall. *All are welcome to attend.* Meanwhile, the book is available from the Friends of Cardinal Newman, or on the Piety Stall.

**OSCOTT LECTURES:** the next event will be a lecture at St. Mary's College,

Chester Road, on Tuesday, 18th September at 8 p.m. given by Lord David Alton on "**Christian Citizenship: the Duty to get involved**". Free admission.

**THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION** is holding an Open Meeting on Saturday 22nd September from 11.45 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. in the Lower Cloister Hall. At 11.45 Br. Frank McGrath will speak on "Volume 32 of Cardinal Newman's Letters and Diaries". At 2 p.m. Br. Lewis Berry will speak on "Christian Witness and Social Action in Cardinal Newman and Pope Benedict XVI". The afternoon will be concluded with Benediction at 3 p.m. in Church. There will be an optional lunch at 1 p.m. in the Plough and Harrow Hotel. Booking forms for lunch are available at the Church doors.

### NOTICES

**SUNDAY 5.30 p.m. MASS CHOIR: Newcomers are always welcome. Please turn up at 5 p.m.**

**"THE KINDLY LIGHT" the LIFE OF CARDINAL NEWMAN** in 3 Audio CD's is also highly recommended. It includes contributions from Fr Paul, Fr Guy, Br. Frank McGrath our Archivist, and also Cardinal Newman's hymn 'Lead Kindly Light' sung by our choir. It is on sale in our Piety Stall at a cost of £10.

**CATHOLIC SINGLES** is an organisation which helps Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other Catholics, either one to one or through social events. All members receive a monthly bulletin, called Catholic Networking. 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)