

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.

July 13th 2008: THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



THE SOWER OF GOD'S WORD

Today's Gospel passage gives us a rare instance of Our Lord telling a parable and then explaining its meaning in detail to His disciples. In it He describes the varying fates of all the seeds sown on the ground by a sower. The seed is God's word, as we learn from a passage in the prophet Isaiah, which we hear in today's first reading. This passage provided Our Lord with the imagery He goes on to develop in the Gospel reading.

In the parable Our Lord teaches us that the word which God sows in men's hearts is a seed capable of growing into a rich harvest, but that whether this actually happens depends on other factors in men's lives. Christ's explanation of the meaning of the parable is quite clear, so that there is no need to duplicate it here. But note how Our Lord uses this image of the seed and the sower to explain the interaction of two things: first, that God's generosity in sending forth His Word perfectly expresses His Will to save us. Secondly, that each man's response to the seed sown

by God in him can make all the difference to its fruitfulness in his soul. There is only one kind of seed, but there are many fates which befall it in the differing hearts and conditions of individual men. What form does this "seed" of God's word take in our lives? It is the seed of faith planted in our hearts, mind and souls at baptism. Exactly the same seed has been sown in the hearts of all the baptised: great saints and great sinners and everyone in between have all shared the same gift of faith. Yet the effects are as varied as the individuals concerned. Sometimes this is the result of widely differing circumstances. Some ages and places are more likely to provide the conditions in which that seed can produce a rich crop. Yet also, as Our Lord told us in the parable of the Talents, we have a personal responsibility to do what we can to make God's word fruitful in the particular conditions in which we live. How fruitful is God's word in our lives? Are we effective ambassadors for Christ in our world? Do people find themselves drawn towards God and His Church by our example and presence? What fruit will God look for from us when we meet Him?

THE YEAR OF SAINT PAUL

Today's second reading at Mass continues the series from the 8th chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans which we began last Sunday. In it St. Paul teaches that the visible creation is somehow affected by man's fall from grace, and will also share in the redemption. Today's reading refers to this fallen state as "slavery to decadence", (though "decay" would be a better rendering than "decadence"), and tells us that this state came about not through the fault of creation itself, but in order to express a sense of hope and expectancy, reminding us that we are waiting for our future glory to be revealed. In this idea St Paul recalls the teaching of Genesis 3:17-18 in which God declares that the earth is "accursed" on account of Adam's sin and it will cause him much suffering. That this state of frustration is to be ended by God's plan is also alluded to in Isaiah's famous prophecy of the future "golden age" in which peace will be restored by a descendent of King David, not only to mankind but also to the whole creation including the animal kingdom (cf. Is. 11:6-9). St. Paul explains that we are "sons of God", and the whole of creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal us as His sons. He is saying something similar to St. John in his first letter: "*we are already the children of God, but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is that when it is revealed we shall be like Him...*" (1Jn 3:2). The main difference between St. Paul and St. John lies in the part played by the visible world in helping us to wait in hope for the revelation which is still to come.

But what is this "hope"? The Pope has recently written about Christian hope in his second encyclical "*Spe salvi facti sumus*", i.e. "*In hope we have been saved*", a phrase drawn from this very same passage of St. Paul (Rom 8:24). Hope implies future fulfilment arising out of present difficulties. This is why St. Paul uses the image of the woman in labour—her present pain is directed towards a most joyful end, and that end is impossible without the painful process which leads towards it. St. John, too, uses the image of labour pains issuing in a glorious triumph in his famous image of the woman in the Apocalypse who brings to birth a "*son who is to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre*" (Rev. 12:2). St. Paul explains that the origin of this hope within us is the presence of the Holy Spirit who enables us to look beyond the "troubles of this present life" towards the "glory as yet unrevealed" which we will enjoy, since we are already children of God. The presence in our hearts of the Holy Spirit who was given to us in our baptism, enables us to know that our present state is one of *waiting*. We are waiting, that is *hoping*, for our bodies to be set free from decay, along with the visible creation around us, to find in heaven the glory that God has prepared for us in union with the risen Christ.

Sunday July 13th: The Fifteenth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *1962 rite Mass (in the church)*
- 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. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

FIFTEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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 July 14th: Feria. (Green). *Optional memoria of St Camillus of Lellis, Priest.* (White)

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

St Camillus (1550-1614) An Italian soldier of fortune, he was addicted to gambling and thereby lost everything. He was greatly changed after hearing a sermon but was prevented from joining the Capuchins by a diseased leg from a war injury. He dedicated himself to the care of the sick, but was so shocked at the state of the hospitals and brutality of the staff, he determined to start an order. On the advice of his confessor, *St Philip Neri*, he was ordained and founded the Ministers of the Sick (*Camillans*). He founded many hospitals but eventually, as his own health deteriorated, and he was unable to work as before, he continued to visit and comfort the sick until his death. Patron of the sick, doctors and nurses.

Tuesday July 15th: St Bonaventure, Priest & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

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

St Bonaventure (1221-74) "Bonaventure", i.e. "Good fortune", was a nickname given to him by St Francis of Assisi after he healed him from a serious illness as a child. Educated in Italy and Paris, he was a man of great intellect and after joining the Franciscans, he became an author and theologian like his friend, St Thomas Aquinas. He was appointed Minister General (head) of the Franciscans, defending and restoring the Order. He declined the archbishopric of York but later became Cardinal Bishop of Albano in time to take a prominent part in the Council of Lyons, during which he died.

Wednesday July 16th: Feria. (Green). *Optional memoria of Our Lady of Mount Carmel* (White)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel honours the purity of Our Lady's faith as celebrated by the hermits who established a community on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land in the Middle Ages on the site of the prophet Elijah's victory over the priests of the pagan god Baal.

Thursday July 17th: Feria. (Green). *Optional memoria of St Kenelm, Prince of Mercia.* (White); or of **Bl. John Sugar & Robert Clissold, English Martyrs.** (Red)

St Kenelm (c.800) Reputedly martyred at Clent, where a church is dedicated to him. **Blesseds John Sugar and Robert Clissold:** John Sugar was born in Wombourne and was raised as an Anglican. Although he refused to take the Oath of Supremacy, he preached against the Catholic Church until his conversion. Following his ordination, he worked amongst the poor Catholics in the Midlands, going about on foot. Robert Clissold was his faithful servant, and they were both arrested at Baddesley Clinton. John Sugar was condemned for his priesthood. Robert Clissold was offered freedom, but he refused to denounce the Faith. They were martyred together at Warwick on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 1604.

Friday July 18th: Feria. (Green).

Saturday July 19th: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or **Feria.** (Green). *St John Plessington, English Martyr.*

- **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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of Sunday: Fourteenth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

St John Plessington (d. 1679) a Lancashire Catholic, he was ordained in Spain and returned to work in Cheshire. He was implicated in the "Titus Oates Plot", (fabricated to discredit Catholics) and following a show trial, he was hanged, drawn and quartered at Chester.

Sunday July 20th: The Sixteenth 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 Mass in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Patrick Ogbaji, Antonietta Boffa, Kathleen O'Grady, Marie-Therese Jones, Darek Butowski, Peter Young, Evelyn Arrigho, Frank McGuinness, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea and Sheila Lord. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Christina Clark, Vivian Beesley, Mary Behan and Nan Boland; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Geoffrey Walmsley of this Oratory, Josephine Phelps, Stanley Pilley, Zygmund Denby, Beryl Roebuck, William Wall, Anthony Curtis, Michael Hegarty and Isabel Kuzminski.

The following are requested to read next weekend, July 19th/20th: Sixteenth Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m. Peter Leather
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections

14th Sunday of the Year, 6th July:
Offertory: £1,392
Second: Linacre Centre: £551
Thank you

Second Collection today: DDF

Next weekend, the Second Collection will be for the Little Sisters of the Poor

TODAY

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall. **ANTI-EUTHANASIA LIVING WILL** forms are available, as promised, at the Church Doors.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on **Wednesday afternoon** commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. **Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will eventually be granted when the postponed Appeal Hearing is due to take place in October.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HAGLEY HIGH SCHOOL will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in January 2009 and the school archivist asks those who have memories of the school in the 1960s or 1970s to email them to him at sroberts@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk

A CLOISTER SALE will be held here on the 26th and 27th July to support children going on the GOBS Pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of August.

NOTICES

LATIN AND GREEK TUITION Maryvale Institute, Birmingham, is offering its annual summer school in Latin and Greek from 16th to 19th July inclusive. You can study either of those languages from scratch, or take your existing basic

knowledge further. Or - if you have got some way with the languages - you can read some exciting texts and discuss them linguistically and theologically. Application forms are available at the rear door of the Church. Please apply to Sr. Valentina at Maryvale (bookshop@maryvale.ac.uk - and see the address on the application form). Please also warn Fr Richard Conrad you are coming (richardp.conrad@yahoo.co.uk) and say what you have done so far by way of Latin or Greek so he can assign you to a group.

HFE BILL NEWS: The Government has now postponed until autumn the final stages of its Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, including debate on pro-abortion amendments. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) believes the government's decision was influenced by the marvellous opposition of courageous church leaders, churchgoers and supporters to this profoundly unethical Bill, for which SPUC is enormously grateful. More help is now needed to campaign against the bill over the summer. Telephone SPUC on 020 7091 7091 or email political@spuc.org.uk

REDNAL: If you would like to help our campaign to keep the fence, by taking some photographs and measurements of palisade fences around the city, please see Fr Guy for details.

SERVERS: volunteers still wanted for Sunday 8.30 a.m. Mass.