

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.

August 3rd 2008: THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

GOD'S LOVE AND OUR NEED

The Provost writes:

"God's ways are not our ways" - how often does that phrase come to our lips when we are brought up short by some seemingly inexplicable manifestation of the workings of Providence.

To strike a personal note for once: in the last fortnight I have through death lost two friends; one an active parish priest in his early 50s, much beloved by his parish in the USA, the other, aged 36, a wife and mother of three small children. In the face of such tragedies - and I am sure many of you could echo these with experiences of your own - we can find our faith being tested very much. In a sense, we should not be surprised or concerned when this happens. Read carefully what St Paul tells us in today's Second Reading. He speaks of anguish and distress, of persecutions and famine, of nakedness, peril and the sword, in a word all the things that mark our human existence, all the daily battles of life which come along to try us and to test us. St Paul teaches us that all of these, indeed not even death itself, can prevent us from remaining faithful - nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. That is an amazing claim to make!

So often we can gain the impression that an average view of God likens Him to an indulgent favourite uncle, who is just there to do what we want and when we want it. Reality can and should change that view. When tragedy strikes, when things go wrong, that idea of God is quickly exploded. Some people would then say that they have lost their faith; others might be blessed with the realisation that God is not like that at all, and that to follow Him properly means coming to a new understanding of who He is and the way His Will unfolds. A deeper, more mature and robust faith might well emerge from the darkness of that tragedy. We come to learn the sometimes hard lesson that the life of faith was never described as being a bed of roses, that our wills are not supreme, and that through it all - as Cardinal Newman put it - "God knows what he is about."

Trial, distress, hunger and danger, death itself - these things do not separate us from the love of Christ. Rather they draw Him close to us with a love that conquers all.

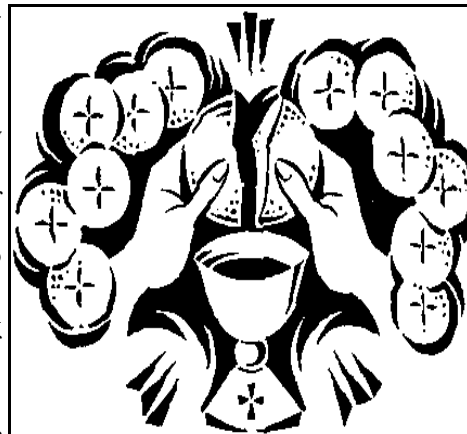
In a way, God regards every experience of human lack as a prime opportunity to manifest His lavishness. God beckons us, promising "Come, all who are thirsty; come, you who have no money". Our dependence, our destitution is answered by Him - in the "desert place" of today's Gospel with the meal of loaves and fishes, prefiguring the scene in the Upper Room, where the gift will be His very self in the Eucharist.

The Blessed Eucharist is the gift to us of Christ's consoling presence. In our need, in our despair, in our grief, just as in our joys and thanksgivings, Christ comes to us to feed and to nourish, to console and sustain us. When we wish to thank God for His blessings, we do it best in the setting of the Mass; when we are bowed down by our worries and anxieties and when we need to place our loss and our grief at His feet, we do it best in the setting of the Mass. In every moment of our life, the Blessed Eucharist is the summit and source of all that we are and all that we need.

Let us take a moment this weekend to thank Our Lord for loving us so much that He gives Himself to us in the Blessed Sacrament, and, if we have problems and anxieties, let us ask Him to show us that through it all we need never be separated from Him.

CARDINAL NEWMAN'S SHRINE.

The words I spoke at all Masses last weekend have been widely reported in the press and around the world on the internet. Many people have told me how pleased they are with the news. May I thank most sincerely those of you who have ~~already sent in financial contributions - they are most gratefully received.~~



Sunday August 3rd: The Eighteenth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. 1962 rite Mass (in the church) | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction |

EIGHTEENTH 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 August 4th: St John Vianney, Priest. Memoria. (White).

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

St John Vianney, the Curé of Ars (1796-1859). Not an academic, he found his studies for the priesthood difficult and following his ordination, he was sent to Ars, a remote and poor French hamlet. His reputation as a confessor quickly grew and he drew very many back to the Church who had fallen away during the anti-Catholic French Revolution. News of his gentle wisdom spread and penitents came to him from all over the world. He practiced many mortifications and retained a child-like innocence throughout his life. He is the Patron Saint of Parish Priests due to his extraordinary dedication to pastoral work.

Tuesday August 5th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of Dedication of St Mary Major. Memoria. (White)

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

Dedication of St Mary Major : *Our Lady of the Snows*. In the 4th century, Our Lady appeared to both Pope Liberius and a wealthy Roman couple in a dream on the same warm August night and asked that a church be built in her honour where snow should be reported next day in the City of Rome. Snow miraculously fell on a spot on the Esquiline Hill. The church was duly erected, and following the Council of Ephesus in 432, at which Our Lady was declared "Mother of God", Pope Sixtus III enlarged and enhanced the basilica, as it can be seen today. It is the oldest church dedicated to Our Lady in the West.

Wednesday August 6th: Feast of the Transfiguration (White)

The Transfiguration: We celebrate the occasion when Our Lord took the Apostles, Peter, James and John to Mount Tabor where they saw Him transfigured in heavenly light - a foretaste of His heavenly glory at the Resurrection.

Thursday August 7th: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of St Sixtus II, Pope and his companions, Martyrs. (Red); or of St Cajetan, Priest. (White).

St Sixtus II & Comps: (d. 258) Elected to the Papacy in 257, he healed a rift between the sees of Rome and Carthage. Due to the persecution by the Emperor Valerius, the Pope held services in the Catacombs, but was caught and arrested. He was immediately beheaded, along with four of his deacons. Others arrested at the same time were executed over the following few days.

St Cajetan (d.1547) Founder of the *Theatines*, an order to work in the cities of Italy, his rule of life influenced St Philip Neri in the founding of the Oratory some years later. Cajetan greatly helped the poor in many ways, including opening non-profit making pawn shops.

Friday August 8th: St Dominic, Priest. Memoria. (White)

St Dominic (1170-1221) A Spanish Augustinian, he went to France to preach against the Albigensian heresy (the belief that only one's soul is of God; that the body is of the devil and evil, and that the devil is as powerful as God). He founded the *Order of Preachers* (Dominicans) who travelled all over Europe. His charisma drew many to him.

Saturday August 9th: St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Martyr and Patron of Europe. Feast. (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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of Sunday: Nineteenth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (1891-1942) A Polish Jew, Edith Stein was a renowned philosopher and became an agnostic before converting to Catholicism in 1922. She joined the Carmelites in Cologne in 1933. Due to the Nazi persecutions, she was transferred to Eich, but in retaliation to the Dutch Bishops condemnation of the Nazi regime, Jewish converts and

Sunday August 10th : The Nineteenth 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: Marion Arnott-Job, Evelyn Arrigho, Frank McGuinness, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey and Marie-Therese Jones.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Lorna O'Shea, Bridget Josephine McEwan and Veronica Wagg;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Philip Lynch of this Oratory, Mario Rosario, Thomas Cowan, Chris Carter, Florrie Wilson and Alfredo Testa.

The following are requested to read next weekend, August 9th/10th: Nineteenth Sunday:

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

Collections

17th Sunday of the Year, 20th July:
Offertory: £1,413
Second: Apostleship of the Sea, £435

Thank you

Second Collection today is for Cardinal Newman's Cause

TODAY

The Second Collection this weekend is for Cardinal Newman's Cause

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Tuesday, the feast of the Dedication of the Church of St. Mary Major in Rome, (also known as "*Our Lady of the Snow*") to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the reopening of the restored Chapel. The Mass will be at 2.30 p.m, as usual, and will be a sung Mass.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The ANNUAL MASS FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF CARDINAL NEWMAN is on **Monday, August 11th**, the 118th, anniversary of his death, at 7.30 p.m. **On Sunday, August 10th**, there will be prayers at his graveside at Rednal, at 3 p.m.. Please see the poster on the Notice Boards for more

information.

ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY at Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire, takes place on Sunday 17th August, commencing with Mass at 3.00 p.m. Please see the poster on the Notice Board in the Cloisters, which gives full details.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: Meetings recommence on Friday, 19th September (12-2 p.m.) . (Please see posters for more details). We will be studying and discussing *Saint Gianna Molla, Wife Mother, Doctor*. The book is available on the Piety Stall, priced at £8.95, but a refund of approximately 12.5% will be given to those who attend the book club.

MARYVALE INSTITUTE offers three courses (which can be taken in distance-learning mode) for all adults. The **Certificate in Catechesis** is for anyone interested in developing their faith for the sake of explaining it to others; The **Certificate in New Testament Studies** is to help to gain most from reading the bible; and the **Certificate in Studies in the Catechism** will enliven your faith. For more information visit www.maryvale.ac.uk