

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



March 28th 2010: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD



HOSANNA ! (Oh Lord, Save us!)

Palm Sunday recalls Our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the very beginning of the same week in which He would be arrested, tortured, condemned to death and executed on the cross. All four evangelists tell us of this dramatic moment in Our Lord's journey to Calvary, but it is St. John who tells us the detail which gives the day its name: that the people of Jerusalem cut branches off palm trees to wave in celebration of Jesus's coming among them.

It is worth concentrating on this event now, not only because it gives the day its name and sets the scene for the week ahead, but also because, unless you are present at the Blessing of the Palms before the High Mass, you will not hear the Gospel of Our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. For the Gospel at Mass on Palm Sunday is always one of the accounts of the Passion by Matthew, Mark or Luke. Hence this Sunday's other name: "Passion Sunday". (St. John's Passion is always read on Good Friday).

There are several interesting points to note about the event we commemorate today. First, it is at first sight most unusual that such an event took place at all. Our Lord had always resisted any form of "hero-worship" directed to Himself, especially if this implied the idea of Kingship in any form. Here are the crowds greeting Him with wild enthusiasm, "praising God at the top of their voices for all the miracles they had seen". So what has changed from the earlier times when Jesus would have shunned such a reaction to His coming? One reason is that He must be seen to claim the Messiahship before He dies. This is not the Messiah that the people had previously been waiting for—the warrior-king who would lead them to victory over the Romans. Jesus had always resisted that

idea of kingship. But now there are signs that the people, having seen the miracles He has worked in their midst, are now enthusiastically ready to believe in Him. In particular we remember that only a few days earlier, Our Lord had raised Lazarus from the dead, a miracle which led many of the people to believe in Him. After three years of teaching and of signs such as the raising of Lazarus, Our Lord was at last enabling the people to understand just how different a kind of Messiah He was.

Secondly, Jesus rides on a donkey-colt. This was hardly an animal to suggest great majesty. But the Prophet Zechariah had foretold this triumphal arrival many centuries earlier, and most of the evangelists refer directly to it: "Do not be afraid, Daughter of Zion, see, your king is coming, mounted on the colt of a donkey." As St. John says, "At the time, His disciples did not understand, but later, after Jesus had been glorified, they remembered that this had been written about Him and that this was in fact how they had received Him". This is a familiar theme, especially in St. John. Many of the things that Our Lord did "to fulfil the Scriptures" were not immediately understood as such by those who witnessed them, even His closest friends. Yet Our Lord did them because they were part of God's plan for the Messiah. Our Lord also knew that His followers would only finally begin to understand the truth about Him when the Holy Spirit came after He had ascended into heaven. As He had said to them during the Last Supper, "the Holy Spirit will lead you into the complete truth",

Thirdly, the Pharisees are so indignant and fearful at this enthusiastic greeting on the part of the citizens that they are not only outraged but fearful. It is this event, following so shortly after the raising of Lazarus, which hastens their determination to have Him put to death. Note how they say to our Lord, "Rabbi, control your disciples!" They recognise that He has won a significant following which only He will be able to control. They begin to fear for their status as the acknowledged leaders of the people in all matters religious. As they say in St. John's account of this event: "You see, there is nothing you can do; look, the whole world is running after Him." Our Lord's reply to the Pharisees, as reported by St. Luke makes it clear that nothing can prevent His entry into His own Holy City: "If these people keep silence, the very stones will cry out!"

Sunday March 28th: Palm Sunday (Red)

- 8.30 a.m. **Low Mass**
- 9.30 a.m. **Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal**
- 10.15 a.m. **Blessing & Procession of Palms & High Mass**
- 12.00 p.m. **(Families with young children)**
- 5.30 p.m. **Sung Congregational Mass**
- 7.30 p.m. **Vespers and Benediction**

HOLY WEEK: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 2 in the Divine Office

Monday to Wednesday: 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.

Stations of the Cross each night at 8 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY and HOLY SATURDAY: Please see over leaf

Monday 29th March: Monday of Holy Week. (Purple)

- **Stations of the Cross at 8 p.m.**

Tuesday 30th March: Tuesday of Holy Week. (Purple).

- **Stations of the Cross at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 31st March: Wednesday of Holy Week. (Purple)

- **Stations of the Cross at 8 p.m.**

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

For all that follows here, please refer to the separate yellow sheet for more detailed information.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Mass of Our Lord's Last Supper: 7 p.m. (White)

GOOD FRIDAY: (Day of Fasting and Abstinence—see below)

- **Tenebrae (Office of Readings and Morning Prayer): 8.30 a.m.**
- **Children's Stations of the Cross: 11.30 a.m.**
- ***Confessions will be heard from 10.30 a.m. to 2.55 p.m. and from 4.30 p.m.—7 p.m.**
- **Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion and Death: 3 p.m.**
- **Seven Last Words: 7 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross**

HOLY SATURDAY:

- **Tenebrae (Office of Readings and Morning Prayer): 8.30 a.m.**
- **(No Morning Masses)**
- ***Confessions will be heard from 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.**
- **NO MASS AT 5.45 P.M.**
- **EASTER VIGIL AT 9 P.M. and FIRST MASS OF EASTER**

April 4th: Easter Day : (White)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin Low Mass 1962 Missal**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Dennis Grigg, Mary Shafer, Geoff Jones, Kevan Bleach, D Butowski, Sarah Wallin, Tony Colqhoun, Pat Cartwright, Carolyn Knight, David Pritchard, Elizabeth Caswell, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Tony Farmer. **Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently:** Edgar Andrews, Agnes Healy, Sannio Mura and Douglas Verrier;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Florence Pope, Helen Winterton, Ann McNamara and Neil O'Driscoll.

Douglas Verrier's funeral is on Wednesday at 8.30 a.m.
Reception of remains: before Mass

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, April 4th, Easter Day:

Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

The Fourth Sunday of Lent : 21st March, 2010
Offertory: £1,824
Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £530
Thank you

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND will be for the Music in our Church.

PALM SUNDAY: Please note: *Palms will only be available after they have been blessed* (immediately before the High Mass). As mentioned above, the Blessing and Procession of palms commences at 10.15 a.m. in the college sports hall.

HOLY WEEK TIMES OF SERVICES are available at the doors of the church. Please take one for yourself and any more for friends and relations who might not otherwise be able to get one. **Please note that many Masses and services are at unusual times during the Easter Triduum, from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day.**

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses (including after the Saturday 5.45 p.m. Mass). **Easter cards are on sale** including those being sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need. Also a new CD of Cardinal Newman's Stations of the Cross read by Fr Guy with our own Oratory Choir singing Bach Chorales. Price £11.50.

THIS WEEK

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 led by one of the Fathers, and the afternoon will end with Benediction at c. 4.30 p.m.

There will be STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 p.m. (the Rosary will be at 7.45 p.m. as usual)

PRO-LIFE MORNING OF PRAYER AND WITNESS on GOOD FRIDAY: Walking commences after Tenebrae (8.30 a.m.), so at approximately 9.45 a.m., to pray outside the Calthorpe Clinic, Arthur Road. Please see the poster on the Notice Board for more details.

LADYWOOD AND EDGBASTON CHURCHES TOGETHER ask you to note that there will be no joint service of witness on Good Friday this year.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. **Fasting** means eating only one main meal and two small "collations" or snacks, without any eating between mealtimes. **Abstinence** means avoiding all meat of animals and birds, including sauces and soups made from them. This law obliges everyone aged 14 onwards (the elderly and sick are exempted). The Church encourages those outside these age groups to join in as far as possible, and especially that parents train their children in the practice and penitential meaning of

fasting and abstinence, by means of which we willingly join ourselves with the suffering of our Saviour. Of course, the whole of Lent is fasting time, when we give up some comfort (and/or some food) each day in union with Our Saviour's forty-day fast. Lent ends on Maundy Thursday evening but it is followed immediately by the **Paschal Fast** which lasts until the end of the Easter Vigil. **Please remember therefore that the Church encourages us all to continue to eat moderately throughout Holy Saturday.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AFTERNOON: Takes place on April 11th, at 2.30 p.m. Confessions (from 2 p.m.), Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and other prayers will precede Mass at c. 4.30 p.m. (A Plenary Indulgence is attached to this devotion, under the usual conditions).

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (ages 20-35) meet on Thursday 8 April at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. There will be a talk on Canon Law given by Fr Gerardo Fabrizio, a Canon Lawyer.

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM (Silver Jubilee Year) will take place on Saturday May 8th and will be led by His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop David McGough. A coach will pick up from The Oratory and the total cost of £25 includes a cooked evening meal. Please contact Anne Roebuck on 0121 454 0130 to book.

NOTICES

APF RED BOXES are due in now as the quarter has come to an end. Holders of boxes are asked to cooperate with their collectors in arranging exchange of boxes. Many thanks to all who contribute to the Missions. If you do not have a box and would like one, please contact 0121 427 2039.

Warning: Please look after your belongings in church as there have been thieves around recently. If you notice anything suspicious, please report to the Sacristan or at the Oratory House.

The Association of Catholic Nurses invites all Catholic nurses to join and to receive and give support in membership. Fr Jeremy Howard, Chaplain to Catholics in Healthcare, is based at Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, Vincent Drive, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15. Tel 0121 472 1311 ext 3100/3437. Email: Jeremy.Howard@uhb.nhs.uk To join online visit: <http://www.catholicnurses.org.uk/membership.html>