

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.

April 6th 2008: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Emmaus and the Eucharist

It is impossible closely to read the story of the two disciples walking to Emmaus on that first Easter Day without being deeply moved. Their Lord has just been crucified and buried. Their hopes are at an end. Then a stranger joins them on their way and gets into conversation. He seems to them not to know about the great events that have just left them broken-hearted. Yet He shows them by His wonderful knowledge of scripture that not only does He intimately know all that has happened, but that He understands why it happened in exactly that way—and that it was in complete accordance with God's Will.

When they reach the little village of Emmaus where the disciples intend to stay the night, the stranger wants to go on, but they have been so uplifted by his company and His explanation of the Scriptures that they press Him to stay with them and join them for the evening meal. To their delight, this the stranger agrees to do. But then, to their utter amazement and joy, the stranger takes bread and breaks it and gives it to them—and then vanishes from their sight! At that instant they recognise who this "stranger" really is. It is Jesus Himself, alive! No matter that He has disappeared, no matter that it is getting dark, they are so overwhelmed with joy that they set off immediately back to the City to tell their friends, who are in an equally excited state because they, too, have seen the Lord.

What is so special about this event? First, unlike all the other appearances of Our Lord after His resurrection, this is the only one in which He disappears as soon as He has made Himself known. This is for a very important reason. Unlike all Our Lord's other appearances, whether in Jerusalem or in Galilee, this one is intended in a *particular* way for the whole of the Church on earth for ever afterwards. Unlike Thomas, for instance, we do not see the wounds and put our fingers and hand into them: moreover, we are the more blessed for believing precisely because we have *not* seen. But in the Emmaus event, Our Lord shows us through the eyes of Cleopas and his companion that He is indeed truly present whenever and wherever we "do this in memory of Him", that is, celebrate the "breaking of the bread" which is Jesus's Eucharistic Body. Whenever we celebrate Holy Mass—on any Sunday or any day, it is truly Our Lord who is present just as He was at Emmaus. He is hidden from our eyes in the forms of bread and wine, but He is also *revealed* by those signs, just as He revealed Himself at Emmaus exactly in those signs. This week let us try and worship Him, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

During Paschaltide, instead of the Angelus, we pray Our Lady's Easter Antiphon:

REGINA CAELI

*Regina Caeli, laetare, Alleluia!
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!
Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!
Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!*

*Then:
Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

*Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!
He whom you were fit to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised has arisen, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God your prayer, Alleluia!*

Let us pray: O God, who have graciously given joy to the world in the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ; grant, we pray, that through His mother the Virgin Mary, we may attain to the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday April 6th: the Third Sunday of Easter (White)

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. Vespers and Benediction |

THIRD WEEK OF EASTER: 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 April 7th: St John Baptiste de la Salle, Priest. (White)

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

St John Baptiste de la Salle: Born into nobility in Rheims in 1650, he was the eldest of ten children. He studied in Paris and some years before his ordination in 1678, he was given a canonry. However, he felt uneasy with his comparatively comfortable life and decided to devote his time to the poor. Realising that education was a major contributor to the enduring problems, he set about training a group of volunteer laybrothers, "*Brothers of the Christian Schools*". He opened several schools and was one of the first to emphasize classroom teaching over individual instruction; he also began teaching in the vernacular instead of in Latin. He was the first to open teacher-training colleges. Gradually, schools were opened all over France and Italy and King James II invited him to England. In addition to his writings on education, he wrote several works on the value of prayer and meditation. He died at Rouen in 1719.

Tuesday April 8th: Tuesday of Easter Week 3. (White)

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

Wednesday April 9th: Wednesday of Easter Week 3. (White)

Thursday April 10th: Thursday of Easter Week 3. (White)

Friday April 11th: St Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr. (Red)

St Stanislaus (Patron of Poland) He was born into a noble family, near Cracow in Poland. He joined the priesthood and was soon noted for his preaching, becoming a much sought after spiritual adviser. In 1072 he was appointed Bishop of Cracow and championed the poor. However, he incurred the enmity of King Boleslaus the Bold when he denounced the King's cruelties and injustices and particularly in his kidnapping of the beautiful wife of a nobleman. When Stanislaus excommunicated the King and stopped services at the Cathedral when Boleslaus entered, the King was determined to kill the Bishop personally, and did so whilst he was saying Mass in a chapel outside the city on April 11th 1079.

Saturday April 12th: Saturday of Easter Week 3. (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**

First Mass of Sunday: The Fourth Sunday of Easter at 5.45 p.m.

Sunday April 13th: The Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin Mass 1962 Missal**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn 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: Pauline Butterworth, Ken White, Teresa Lee, Desmond Williams, Margaret Ginelly, Lorna O'Shea, Danuta Slyzyk, Jon Jarvis, Vivian Beesley, Wyn Xenaky, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Patrick Hurley, Dorothy Price, Ellen Westwood, Sandra McCann, Margaret Casey and Patricia & caroline Ogbaje. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Peter Leicester, Geoffrey Jenkins and Angela McKenna; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Dee Parton, Julia Broomhead, Bernard Beesley, Louisa Cartwright, Kathleen Bowen, Mary-Anne Dainty and John Pugh.

Bridget Genockey's funeral is on Tuesday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: Monday at 4.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read next weekend,

April 12th/13th: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck

Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne

12.00 p.m.: Sr Hilary

5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections

Divine Mercy Sunday, 30th March:

Offertory: £1,797

Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £521

Many thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION is for the Oratory Priests' Training Fund

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall with a large selection of books, including for children, gifts for occasions of baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, rosaries, DVDs, CDs, statues etc., and Catholic newspapers.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession around the grounds.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB next meeting is on Tuesday from 12-2 p.m. discussing Joanna Bogle's visit & book '*A Yearbook of Seasons & Celebrations*'. (Back in stock on the Piety Stall) All women welcome. Contact 688-4154 rosary@blueyonder.co.uk

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CORDES, President of the Pontifical Council, *Cor Unum*, will be giving a lecture on the Pope's encyclical "*Deus Caritas Est*" God is Love, at Maryvale, Old Oscott Hill on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. **Seats must be reserved: 360 8118 or e-mail: enquiries@maryvale.ac.uk**

PATRICIANS' DISCUSSION GROUP meets next Sunday, 13th April, at 3.15 p.m. in the Oratory House. The subject for discussion will be:

"Where and why have all the marriages gone?"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SPUC PRO-LIFE CHAIN: Saturday 26th April from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Hagley Road near the Oratory. You are invited to join this peaceful and silent kerbside vigil, where the pro-life message is witnessed by thousands of passing motorists. The Abortion Act was passed in 1967, and this year marks the 40th anniversary of its coming into force. More than 6,750,000 unborn children have been killed since. Please join the chain, if only for a while. For more details, contact Gill Bowen: 0121 454 8517.

NOTICES

GIFT AID: 1. To those of you who already donate to us by this method, we are very grateful indeed since the tax we can reclaim is of great help. **However, from April 6th, the start of the new tax year, our income from this source will be reduced by 11% due to changes in tax rates. Therefore, if you are able to increase your current donations, it would be very much appreciated.** **2.** To those of you who are tax payers (at the basic or higher rate) and who do not yet donate your amount to the collections by this method, may we appeal to you to do so? It costs you no more (and in the case of higher rate tax payers, there is a benefit to you too). **Gift Aid forms are to be found at the back door of the church.**

BISHOP O'DONOGHUE'S SPIRITED DEFENCE OF TRULY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Tory MP Douglas Carswell says he cannot imagine an imam being subjected to the rudeness that Labour MPs directed at Bishop O'Donoghue of Lancaster, who, on the verge of retirement, has become the country's leading champion of Catholic education before the Commons select committee. The reason: his educational guidelines demand that sex education in diocesan schools should be based on the Church's teaching. This outraged secularists on the committee, and especially Barry Sheerman MP who takes the view that '*faith education works all right as long as people are not that serious about their faith*'. Mr Carswell says 'The Bishop seemed to be hectoring in a way that any objective viewer would find bizarre. Certain questions told us more about the prejudices of the questioner than anything else. Secular extremism is as unattractive as any. I support the role of faith schools - and think that politicians should leave them alone. I rather suspect that one reason why politicians are so hostile to faith schools is precisely because it is less easy for hectoring politicians to boss them about and micro-manage them. I thought the bishop was slightly taken aback, and I felt slightly embarrassed. He wouldn't have got that sort of treatment if he were an imam.' In fact he wouldn't have been hauled before the committee in the first place!