

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

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School contact:

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

dickinsonc@oratory.bham.sch.uk



October 24th 2010: THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



FM ALL RIGHT, ARE YOU?

“The humble man’s prayer pierces the clouds”, says the writer of the Book of Ecclesiasticus (also known as Sirach), in today’s first reading.

Interestingly enough, the Pharisee about whom Our Lord tells His parable in the Gospel reading must know this text, even if he is a fictional character. After all, Our Lord is telling the story not about a particular individual, but about a well-known type of person.

The Pharisee who marches up to the front of the Temple and loudly thanks God that he is not like the rest of men, and especially not like the miserable tax-collector at the back who has dared to show his face in God’s Holy Place—such a man must have been a familiar character in Our Lord’s day. The Pharisees not only thought that they were better than everybody who wasn’t one of them, but that they wanted everyone else to know it, too.

If they knew that the “humble man’s prayer pierces the clouds”, why didn’t they show humility?

It was simply because while they would recognise the truth of that statement in Scripture, they genuinely believed that it did not apply to them. They had no need of humility because they were already perfect.

Sir Winston Churchill famously said of Clement Attlee, his political opponent: “Mr. Attlee is a modest man— Indeed he has a lot to be modest about”. You can put the word “humble” in place of the word “modest” and get a similar meaning. For the Pharisees, humility is something that only others need to have. They themselves can get the same results from their prayers without the need for humility (or modesty). God will surely hear them without the need for self-abasement—that’s for sinful types. They need to be humble because they have sinned grievously. They have disobeyed the Law. They have neglected the commandments.

What Our Lord’s parable teaches us is not that truly humble people are nicer to know than proud self-satisfied ones, because we surely know that already! Rather, Our Lord’s message is that everyone, including the Pharisee, is totally in need of God’s mercy. Nobody in this world is holy without God making them so. We can (and indeed should) become Saints, but we cannot do so without the Grace of God which comes from Our Lord and is given in His Church and in the Sacraments.

We may think that Pharisees are rather remote and unpleasant religious bigots not in the least bit like modern people. But the truth is that if we think that we ourselves are capable of becoming holy without the Mass, the Sacraments, prayer and humility, then we are fooling ourselves. In fact, you don’t even need to be religious to be a Pharisee! How many people do you hear saying: “I don’t need to go to Church. I’m good to my neighbour and I don’t do anyone any harm”. Sounds familiar? Look at the Gospel and spot whom it resembles!

Sunday October 24th: The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

- 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 English Mass
- 6.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction

Liturgical Calendar

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

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary after the 12.45 & 5.45 p.m. Masses.

Holy Hour: Each morning from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. October devotions at c. 6.15 p.m.

Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass.

(For Saturday and Sunday: see over)

Monday 25th October: (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**

Tuesday 26th October: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Cedd. Bishop. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

St Cedd (d. 644) He was the brother of St Chad and was a monk with him at Lindisfarne before being appointed Bishop of the East Saxons. At the Synod of Whitby, he abandoned Celtic observances in favour of those of Rome. In old age, he returned to his own monastic foundation at Lastingham in Yorkshire where he died of plague.

Wednesday 27th October: Feria. (Green).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**

Thursday 28th October: St Simon and St Jude. Apostles. Feast (Red).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**

St Simon (1st c) Simon is known in the Gospels as the “Zealot” to distinguish him from Simon Peter. The name recalls his probable earlier connection with the Jewish resistance movement to Roman rule. After Pentecost, he is traditionally held to have preached in Egypt and Persia.

St Jude whose name is abbreviated from Judas, is distinguished from the betrayer Judas Iscariot by the name *Thaddaeus*. He is believed to have been a close relative of Our Lord’s and is often depicted with a picture of Him around his neck as though to emphasise their similarity of appearance. He is popular as the patron saint of hopeless cases. Both these apostles were martyred.

Friday 29th October: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**

Saturday 30th October: Our Lady on Saturday (White); or Feria. (Green).

- **Low Masses: at 8 a.m., and in Latin (EF) at 9.30 a.m. in the Shrine.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—concluding with Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Pilgrim Mass at 11 a.m. followed by prayers in Bl John Henry’s Shrine.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Solemnity of All Saints) at 5.30 p.m.**

October 31st: The Solemnity of All Saints (All Hallows): (White)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Low Latin Mass (1962 missal)**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass**
- **12.00 noon Family Mass**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational English Mass**
- **6.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction (please note new time)**

Please pray for the sick Kay Murphy, Mark Holloway, Jacqueline Griffiths, James Foynes, Mario Imbimbo, Rita Waltho, Janet Spanswick, Patrick Turner, Jimmy Cunningham, Brenda Molloy, Nick Usher-Somers, Miles Drew, Ann Williamson, Harold Johnson, Carolyn Knight, Tony Colquoun, Thelma Havelin, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Barbara Jarvis.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently:

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Edward Snape, Angelo Gentilella, John Acquaye and Tony Welby

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, October 30th/31st Solemnity of All Saints

Saturday 5.45 p.m: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Peter Bateman
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections last week:

*The Twenty-ninth Sunday:
17th October, 2010*
Offertory: £1,692
Second Collection: Bl. John Henry’s Shrine: £749
Organ (for shrine) Fund £1,100

Many thanks

TODAY

Today is WORLD MISSION SUNDAY and the 2nd collection will be for the **APF** (the Association for the Propagation of the Faith). The APF provides funding for schools, seminaries and missionaries around the world. Most of you will be familiar with the ‘Red Boxes’ for collecting money at home or your place of work etc. If you would like to become a collector, please sign up for a box at the doors of the church.

THE PIETY STALL is now open on Saturdays, and after Sunday morning Masses and on Sunday afternoons. Medals, rosaries and other commemorative items of the beatification of Blessed John Henry Newman are on sale, together with books about him, and of his own writings. Christmas cards (including those sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need), Nativity sets, Advent Calendars, calendars, diaries and other Christmas items are on sale. In the run-up to Christmas, we will again be opening after the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses.

THIS WEEK

There will be a HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each day this week, and Adoration from 8.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. on Saturday.

FRIENDS OF CARDINAL NEWMAN A G M takes place on Tuesday in the Lower Cloister Hall at 7.15 p.m. (for 7.30 p.m.)

The acclaimed film about Our Lady at Fatima, THE 13TH DAY will be shown in the Upper Cloister Hall on Wednesday at 8 p.m. The film’s producer will give a short introduction and Fr Guy will give a short address on the importance of the Fatima message.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY : Please remember that you can obtain a PLENARY INDULGENCE (under usual conditions) each day in October by praying five decades of the Rosary in Church (see ‘October Devotions’ below) , or as a family or in a special group, or even a Partial Indulgence by praying fewer than five decades or by praying the Rosary on your own.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS continue each weekday evening IMMEDIATELY

AFTER THE 5.45 p.m.. Mass, at c. 6.15 p.m. They consist of the Rosary, a short meditation and Benediction. Note the new time of evening devotions and please do your best to attend!

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will not take place this week.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ends next weekend. The clocks go back one hour on Sunday 31st October.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS (21-35) next meet at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 4th November, in the Oratory House. Fr Tim Finigan will give a talk on “Christian Freedom and Conscience”

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES organised by the **Knights of Malta**, Hospitaller Limited, takes place from Friday April 29th to Friday May 6th 2011. Each year they take sick, disabled and aged pilgrims, providing nursing and medical care. Invitations are invited from those categories. The accommodation is in the *Accueil Notre Dame*, and pilgrims are asked to make a contribution of £260 towards the cost of £550, but this can be reduced in cases of need. Anything over £260 would be gratefully received to help those who can afford very little. For booking form etc please contact Adrian de Redman: 0121 608 5496

NOTICES

BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN’S SHRINE: We are trying to raise £18,000 for the new organ in the chapel, better suited to the purpose of enhancing worship there. Thank you to all those who have contributed so far or have offered help with a short-term interest-free loan. Additional donations will be very gratefully received! So far we have raised £4,120, not counting loans.

OPENING TIMES OF THE SHRINE: Please note that the shrine is open when the church is open. On Saturdays and Sundays, this will be all day. During the week, at present, the church will be open at usual times. (Generally, half to three-quarters of an hour before and after services.)