

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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January 27th 2008: Third Sunday of the Year (Sexagesima)

The People that walked in Darkness

After His Baptism, Our Lord began His public ministry by preaching in Galilee, called by the Prophet Isaiah the land of the “people that walked in darkness”, on account of the fact that, although they were Jews, the Galileans lived beyond Samaria, whose people were apostates from the true Jewish religion, and worshipped false gods. So the Galileans were almost cut off from Judea and Jerusalem, the heartlands of the true faith of the Jews, the land of David and the city of the Temple. Our Lord is seen by St. Matthew, (whose Gospel we are now reading on Sundays in Ordinary Time), as beginning His public ministry far away from Jerusalem in His home district of Galilee, and gradually working His way down through Samaria towards Jerusalem where He will consummate His work by His Passion, Death and Resurrection. Yet it is of the “people who walked in darkness” that Isaiah went on to say that they have “seen a great light”. This prophecy foretold that the Galileans would have the privilege of being the first to hear the Son of God preach the Kingdom in their midst and, indeed, Our Lord was known in Jerusalem as “the Galilean”.



Follow Me!

Right from the moment He began His ministry, our Lord did not work alone, but called others to join Him. We hear in today's Gospel how the first He called to follow Him were the fishermen brothers, Simon and Andrew. Simon was to become known as Peter, the “Rock”. Then Jesus called another two fishermen brothers to follow Him: James and John, the sons of Zebedee—who was clearly a person of some fame since the evangelist not only gives us his name, but also tells us that he had men working for him as well as his two sons. Jesus told all four of these recruits that He would make them into “fishers of men”. God does not call mankind without the assistance of men. Last Friday we celebrated the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, when we recalled the momentous day outside the city of Damascus when the glorified Jesus revealed Himself to Saul, the Pharisee and persecutor of the Church, as the risen Saviour. Saul was baptised and became “Paul”, the fearless preacher to the gentile nations of the known world. He became as passionate a worker for Christ as he had previously been against Him. Without Paul's wonderful work, who knows how long it might have taken for God's Church to be spread throughout the Roman Empire? Paul heard our Lord's call and followed Him faithfully, so wiping away the stain of having been a persecutor of the Church, and becoming its fearless teacher and defender.

Sexagesima

The countdown to Lent and Easter continues today with Sexagesima Sunday which in Latin is the “Sixtieth Day”. We can think about an aspect of our forthcoming Lenten penances. First, let us focus on the positive side: what should we do for Lent? It is important to remember that we should take on some extra works involving love of God and love of neighbour. Why not make daily Mass our aim during Lent? Or perhaps the Stations of the Cross, or weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? Mass and Adoration are wonderful sources of grace and spiritual energy helping us to know Our Lord better and to put into effect our Lenten resolutions with greater determination. The Stations focus our attention on the redemptive sufferings Our Lord took on Himself for us all, and help us to learn to hate sin which brought those sufferings down on Him. What about family prayer? Our children can only learn about the meaning of Lent from us adults. Daily prayer *together*, however short, is a magnificent witness to them, and a means to help them to understand the importance and purpose of Lent as a time of penance to bring us closer to God and make us less “full of ourselves”.

Then we should also think about some act of kindness or charity. What about generosity to the poor and needy? Of course we should give alms during Lent; but we should also look at ways of giving our time; leisure time is very important these days, even though we might complain that we don't have enough of it! Yet we should always have enough to give some to those who need some help: the elderly neighbour who is lonely or who can't do the shopping. Can you help? Again, children (under our guidance) can learn so much about solidarity with the needy from practical examples of what we *do*!

Sunday January 27th: The Third Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *Tridentine Mass (in the church)*
- 10.30 a.m. *Solemn High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- *Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m.*

Third 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. TRIDUO BEFORE CANDLEMAS: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 8 p.m.

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

Monday January 28th: St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church.
Memoria. (White)

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

St Thomas Aquinas (1226-74) Born into a noble family, he was educated at Monte Casino where he showed great promise from an early age, both academically and spiritually. Against his family's wishes, he joined the Dominicans aged seventeen. After his profession, he studied in Cologne under St Albert the Great and soon became a teacher and writer, working at various universities including Paris, Rome and Naples. Despite his great learning (and, undoubtedly, he is one of the greatest theologians), he was a humble and prayerful man. He died on his way to take part in the Council of Lyons.

Tuesday January 29th: Feria. (Green)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction in St Philip's Chapel.

Wednesday January 30th: Blessed Sebastian Valfré, Oratorian Priest. (White)

- **Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m.**
- **Triduo before Candlemas at 8 p.m.**

Bl Sebastian Valfré (1629-1710) Born N. Italy. Following his ordination, he joined the Oratory at Turin where he spent the rest of his life. He became the most sought-after spiritual director in the city, becoming confessor to the Piedmontese Royal Family. This gave him some influence at Court and enabled him to do much for the poor of the city. The Archives of the Turin Oratory possess some 22 volumes of his writings, including his 'Compendium of Christian Doctrine', a catechism organised on a question and answer basis, which became a well-used teaching aid, lasting until the introduction of the Catechism of Pope Pius X. He was greatly devoted to the Shroud of Turin. He also introduced to Turin the Forty Hours Devotion, and encouraged devotion to Our Lady.

Thursday January 31st: St John Bosco, Priest. Memoria. (White)

- **Triduo before Candlemas at 8 p.m.**

St John Bosco (1815-88) As a young priest in Turin, he began his life-long work of caring for and educating boys, particularly the poor, through love. His programme was designed to induce the boys to love their teachers, therefore their work. Eventually, he acquired helpers and in 1860, a new institute was approved which St John placed under the protection of Our Lady Help of Christians, and St Francis de Sales.

Friday February 1st: Feria. (Green) St Henry Morse, English Martyr.

- **Triduo before Candlemas at 8 p.m.**

St Henry Morse (d. 1645) He worked tirelessly in many places around the country, particularly in London amongst plague victims, even catching the plague himself. He was captured in 1641 and banished, having converted as many as 560 protestants, but returned secretly as soon as he could. He was recaptured and sentenced. He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn.

Saturday February 2nd: The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. "Candlemas"
(White)

- **Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **SOLEMN HIGH MASS, BLESSING OF CANDLES & PROCESSION at 11 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **Vigil Mass of THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR at 5.45 p.m.**

Sunday February 3rd: The FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Green)

N.B. the Blessing of Throats will be given after Mass

Mass & Service Times:

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

Please pray for the sick: Marian Briscoe, Marianne Jarvis, Dorothy Price, Ellen Westwood, Tommy Smyth, Margaret Casey, Jacqueline Griffiths, Frank McGuinness, George Saunders, Desmond Williams. And Jeanette Dunkley.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Patrick Malone; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Deacon John Hawkes, Alfred Howell, Nora Quinlan, Josephine Davies, Phyllis Gilrairie and Monica Brunt.

William Scully's funeral is on Thursday at 12.45 pm. Reception of remains: before Mass.

The following are requested to read next weekend, February 2nd/3rd: The 4th Sunday of the Year

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin
12.00 p.m.: Eamon Grant
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections

The 2nd Sunday of the Year, 20th January:
Offertory: £1,412
Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £467
Thank you

The second Collection today will be for the Catholic Education Fund

TODAY

The LOWER CLOISTER HALL is open again (following repairs to the heating) for the piety stall and refreshments, as usual.

THIS WEEK

ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL TALKS FOR PARENTS / Carers:

The second in this important series of talks is on Monday from 2.00—3.15 p.m. in the Oratory School Hall, on the subject of **Sex Education**, and is open to all parents of children in the school. The title of the talk is: **"Growing up: Biological basics."** The talk will be given by Margaret Parsons, a nurse and midwife from Liverpool, who works for LIFE. We hope that, if at all possible, parents will attend these very important talks.

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week, but will resume on the Friday after Ash Wednesday.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ST. BLAISE'S BLESSING OF THROATS will be given as usual on February 3rd (next Sunday) after each Mass.

LENTEN TALKS this year will begin on Saturday, February 16th (not on February 8th on account of the Mass for the Sick). Following on from our very successful talks on Purgatory, the Fathers will present a series on the important matter of **"Conscience"**. The talks will be given, as usual, in the Lower Cloister Hall after the 11 a.m. Mass.

ANNUAL MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK: The sick, elderly and disabled, together with their families, are invited to join the Knights of Malta at a special Mass on Saturday 9th February at 11 a.m. in our church. **Please note that lunch is available, at a cost of £5, providing it is booked by 31st January.** Cheques should be made payable to 'BASMOM'. Booking forms are available at the church doors.

ANNE WIDDECOMBE and guests will be speaking at a rally in Coventry Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13th to inform on Life issues and the Human Fertilisation & Embryology bill going through parliament. (01925 220999 for further information).

The ANNIVERSARY of CARDINAL NEWMAN'S BIRTH: 21st February: There will be a service of music, preaching and prayer at 7.30 p.m. The subject will be *Newman on Lent*. In addition to music by the choir, Dr Francis Jackson, OBE will be the guest organist.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB will next meet on 11th March when Joanna Bogle will be there to discuss her new book: "A Year-book of Seasons & Celebrations". On the day, she will be happy to sign copies of her book (available on the piety stall). All women are welcome. Please contact Jackie Parkes: 688 4154

NOTICES

CONFIRMATION: March 5th. Anyone who wishes to receive the Sacrament must contact Fr Guy, *in writing* before Ash Wednesday.