

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

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*This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.*

## November 2nd 2008: THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

### CARDINAL NEWMAN'S CAUSE

Today, the Solemnity of All Saints, is especially marked for us at the Oratory by the celebrations connected with the translation of Cardinal Newman's remains. Over the last two days these have been beautifully displayed in the Upper Cloister Hall where many people have seen them and have prayed in their presence for the Cardinal's speedy beatification. Now, today, these remains are to be carried in solemn procession into Church, where they will be placed on a catafalque near Our Lady's Altar during the High Mass. This Mass is being celebrated at 11 a.m. today by His Grace the Archbishop, since it is to him that the Holy See has given a particular responsibility both to recognise and to oversee the care and display of these remains. At the end of Mass they are to be moved to St. Charles's Chapel, while a permanent resting-place is prepared for them.

As you will probably already know, there has been a great deal of interest in the cause of Cardinal Newman of late, and in the fate of his relics. That interest is reflected in the strong media presence at Mass today. The entire Mass will be broadcast live, and repeated later on, by EWTN, the American Catholic television company founded by Mother Angelica Rizzo.

For the present, that is until the Cardinal's beatification is announced by the Pope, these remains will be treated respectfully, but not yet given the honour due to the relics of those declared Blessed or Saints by the Church. That will finally come about on the day the Pope makes that long-awaited announcement, and even before the formal ceremony of beatification takes place. On that

great day we will at last be able to set up a shrine here to the "Blessed John Henry Newman". Please, therefore, continue to pray that that day may come soon.

### MORE ON THE HFE BILL

Last week we thanked you all for having striven so hard to influence MPs in advance of the HFE Act, despite the sad fact that this wicked bill is still set to become law. It is therefore a matter of utter amazement to learn that a local Catholic School should be prepared to invite as Speaker at a Prize-giving ceremony, an MP who has throughout her parliamentary career persistently voted for abortion and against life, right up to and including every single aspect of the HFE Bill in the last few days. What is even more shocking is that this MP is a former pupil of that school. Far from being proud of such a record, the School authorities should be deeply saddened that one who passed through their school should now be a major opponent of Church Teaching and of innocent human life in the womb. Cardinal Newman was so devoted to truth that he suffered for his faithfulness to its kindly, yet demanding light. He championed Conscience precisely because of its inalienable rights over state manipulation. We need to educate the conscience of our children in the Truth. Truth belongs to God, not to the State. Cardinal Newman knew that Truth demands our love and total obedience. His entire life's work in education was designed to help people of all stations in life to recognise and respond to the call of Truth. A "Catholic" education that does not give priority to the absolute call of truth is a travesty. Having worked and prayed so hard against the HFE Bill, we must surely now pray, and ask Cardinal Newman to pray with us, for those who have the great responsibility of educating our children in the Truth of our Faith today. We must also pray for the conversion of those who have abandoned the truth, especially when they mistakenly claim to be exercising "independent judgement". There *is* a Judgement, which is to come; and there is also a dire warning to those who corrupt the young: *that it would be better that a millstone be tied round their necks and that they be dropped to the bottom of the sea, than that one of these little ones should suffer scandal.* We ask you to keep this intention in your prayers. When we really pray, good things happen!

### HOLY SOULS NOT YET IN HEAVEN

November is the month when we pray for the souls of those "who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith". In other words, we pray for those who have died in a state of grace, fortified by the Rites of holy Church. Yet even so, we do not presume that such souls enter directly into heavenly glory. Without being in any way pessimistic about our prospects of salvation, we should all be entirely realistic. Cardinal Newman's first printed sermon is entitled "**Holiness necessary for future Blessedness**", in which he states that "holiness, or inward separation from the world, is necessary to our admission into heaven, because heaven is not heaven, is not a place of happiness except to the holy." Holiness is not achieved simply by being reconciled with God at the end of our life. As Newman explains: "in the parable of the wedding garment...inward sanctification is made a condition distinct from our acceptance of the proffer of mercy, and not negligently to be passed over in our thoughts as if a necessary consequence of it; ... we must meet the bridegroom with the oil of holiness, and ...it takes time to procure it." So we pray for the souls of those who, though saved, still need to grow in holiness before being admitted to God's presence. This growth in holiness is the purpose and effect of **Purgatory**.

## Sunday November 2nd: The Solemnity of All Saints (White)

### PLEASE NOTE CHANGES FOR TODAY (only)

• 8.00 a.m.	(Not 8.30) Low Mass	4.30 p.m.	Latin Low Mass (1962 Missal:)
• 11.00 a.m.	Solemn High Mass	5.30 p.m.	Sung Congregational Mass
• 12.15 p.m.	AT THE ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL, Oliver Road	7.30 p.m.	Solemn Vespers & Benediction

### THIRTY FIRST WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 3

Tuesday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. (See overleaf for Monday)

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. and Stations of the Cross on Fridays in November for the Holy Souls

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

**Monday November 3rd: COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS (Black)**

- **Low Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m., 5.45 p.m. and at other times of the day according to arrangements made by the Celebrants**
- **Solemn High Requiem Mass at 8 p.m.**

**Tuesday November 4th: St Charles Borromeo, Bishop. Memoria. (White).**

- **Benediction at 8.00 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction. New members welcome.

**St Charles Borromeo** (1534-84) Born into Italian nobility, his uncle was Pope Pius IV, who noticing his talents, appointed him Cardinal and Archbishop of Milan at the age of only twenty-two. Despite his youth, he became the most influential reforming bishop of his day putting into effect the Catholic reform initiated by the Council of Trent and despite his position of great power, he used it with humility, personal sanctity and unselfishness to reform the Church of the evils and abuses so prevalent among the clergy and the nobles of the times. He was much loved by the ordinary people of his diocese because of the great care he gave to the victims of the terrible plagues which swept through Northern Italy in the wake of warfare. He was a friend and admirer of our own St Philip.

**Wednesday November 5th: FERIA. (Green)**

**Thursday November 6th: FERIA. (Green).**

**Friday November 7th: FERIA. (Green). Optional memoria of St Willibrord, Bishop. (White)**

- **Stations of the Cross for the Holy Souls at 8 p.m.**

**St Willibrord** (c.658-739) Born in Northumbria and educated at the monastery at Ripon, under St Wilfred, he became a priest and went to Ireland. Wishing to be a missionary, he left for Friesland (part of the Netherlands) subsequently being appointed Archbishop of the Frisians. Setting his see at Utrecht, his missions in Germany, Denmark and Luxembourg were very effective. He was renowned for his devotion, joyfulness and holiness.

**Saturday November 8th: Our Lady on Saturday. Memoria. (White); or FERIA; or optional memoria of Bl George Napper, Priest & English Martyr. (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**
- **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 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, at 5.45 p.m.**

**Bl. George Napper** (Martyred 1610) Born and educated at Oxford, he was imprisoned for the Faith for nine years before succumbing to pressure and abandoning it. However, he repented and became a priest at Douay. On his return to England, he ministered for seven years with great success. At the time of his arrest, he was carrying a pyx containing the Blessed Sacrament and was terrified of sacrilegious acts should it be discovered, but despite a thorough search in which even the smallest items, such as a thimble, he was carrying were discovered, the pyx and a small reliquary were not found. He was joyful at the announcement of his execution on a Friday, the same day as Our Lord's.

**Sunday November 9th: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (White)**

**Mass & Service Times:**

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin low Mass (1962 Missal)**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn Requiem Mass for the Fallen in War**
- **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:** Fr Cownley, Jean Rooney, Bernard Heurnann, Raymond Colquhoun, David Reynolds, Bridget Shields, Marie-Therese Jones, Kim Potter, Maurice Hynes, Carole Halls, Margaret Casey, Paul Anderson and Frank McGuinness. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Angelo Gentilella, Antonietta Boffa and Mary McKenna; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Charles Heurtley of this Oratory, Fr Vincent Blehl, Violet Hunt, Arthur Girling, Mary Boswell, Terence Brunt, Alice Milton, Mary Crossley, Veronica Hulse, Peter Lascelles and Elsie Chambers.

Angelo Gentilella's funeral is on Wednesday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: before Mass.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, November 8th/9th  
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica:**

**Saturday 5.45 p.m.:** Eamon Grant  
**Sunday 8.30 a.m.:** Murray Wilson-Browne  
**12.00 p.m.:** Denis Wood  
**5.30 p.m.:** Jason Mahoney

**Collections:**  
**Thirtieth Sunday, 26th October:**  
Offertery: £1,233  
Second: DDF: £329  
*Thank you*

**TODAY**

**NOVEMBER 2nd: CARDINAL NEWMAN:** Attendance at the special at Mass at 11 a.m., will be celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Vincent Nichols and is by ticket only. Please note that *at the Archbishop's request there will be a special Mass schedule in operation: there will be no Masses at 8.30, 9.30 a.m. or 12 noon. Instead, Masses will be at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only.* There will be a low Mass at 12.15 p.m. in the Primary School, and a low Mass in Latin (1962 rite) at 4.30 p.m. in church plus the usual Sunday evening Mass at 5.30 p.m.

The **SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND** will be for the Cause of Cardinal Newman's Beatification.

The **ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE JOHNSON FUND** for sick and retired priests of the diocese will take place next weekend. Gift Aid envelopes are available at the doors of the church.

**HOLY SOULS:** Papers are to be found at the doors of the church for you to place the names of the dead for whom you wish prayers to be offered during November, the month of the Holy Souls. Please then put your list in the special box at the Holy Souls' Altar (on the left-hand side of the church). *Please remember not to place any money in that box. Money for Masses must always be given in at the Sacristy or Church Door.*

The **PIETY STALL** is open after all Sunday Masses, including the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. It has a large selection of *Advent calendars and wreaths, Christmas cards, gifts, calendars, diaries etc. including cards etc being sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need.*, in addition to the usual stock and a wide selection of books.

**THIS WEEK**

**ALL SOULS DAY** is kept on Monday, November 3rd.

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will take place this week on Wednesday beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** for the Holy Souls take place on Fridays in November at 8 p.m. (following the Rosary).

The **LEGION OF MARY** is hosting an event for non-Catholics interested in the Catholic Faith on Friday at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. Fr Gregory will give a talk and there will be an opportunity for questions. All are welcome.

**SOCIETY OF ST HUGH** meets on Saturday at 10.15 a.m. in the Oratory house. All are welcome.

**NEWMAN ASSOCIATION, Birmingham Circle:** A day on Cardinal Newman will be held on Saturday, at Our Lady & Mount Carmel, Beoley Rd, Redditch: Mass at 9.30 a.m. At 11.30 a.m., Dr Frank McGrath (our Newman Archivist) will give a lecture on *The Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*. There will be a second lecture from 2—3 p.m. (details of speaker not known). Donations welcome. Please take a packed lunch.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**MARYVALE ADVENT RETREAT** is on Saturday 29th November from 10.30-4.40 p.m. and will be led by Fr John Redford. The day will include talks, Adoration and Mass. Cost for the day is £9. To book, please telephone 360 8118, or 325 2414, or email: [bridgettines@maryvale.ac.uk](mailto:bridgettines@maryvale.ac.uk)

**NOTICES**

The **ORATORY CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW** will be drawn, as usual on the Feast of the Epiphany. Tickets will be on sale shortly and we would be glad to receive contributions of prizes, particularly for the First Prize of £500. Other gifts would be welcome but please note that they must be in new condition—i.e. unused!)