

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: oratory@globalnet.co.uk

Web-site: www.birmingham-oratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School: web.oratory.bham.sch.uk



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

## November 25th 2007: The Solemnity of Christ the King

### CHRIST THE KING

The Provost writes:

Last Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, was the feast of Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, a Mexican Jesuit who was born in 1891. He served in his country at a time when the Church there was suffering from a fierce persecution, orchestrated by a militantly secular government. (The events in Mexico form the backdrop for Graham Greene's famous novel "The Power & The Glory".) Fr Pro risked his young life in order to continue ministering the sacraments, disguising himself in various ways in order to evade capture. Eventually he was caught and was shot for a being a priest, declaring as he died: "Long live Christ the King."

Two years before Blessed Miguel's death, on December 11<sup>th</sup> 1925, Pope Pius XI, in his Encyclical Letter "Quas Primas", instituted the Feast of Christ the King. Pius XI was one of the great Popes of the last century and was strong in his denunciations of the growth of fascism and secularism. He wanted to reaffirm, through the establishment of this great feast, the fact that Our Lord is King over every human society – King not only of our soul and conscience, intelligence and will, but King also of families and cities, peoples and states, indeed King of the whole Universe. Pope Pius demonstrated – with Mexico and Soviet Russia in mind – how laicism or secularism, that is, the attempt to organise society without reference to God, leads to a catastrophe and to the ultimate ruin of what a civilised society should be. How prophetic Pope Pius's words were could be seen soon after they were written, and they have not lost the force of truth in the intervening decades. We only have to open our newspapers or watch our television to see just what the Pope meant: the attributes of Christ the King and of His Kingdom are ignored, ridiculed or – increasingly – actively opposed.

The magnificent Preface of the Mass for today's feast tells us what the foundation stones of the Kingdom are: truth and life; holiness and grace; justice, love and peace. We might think that only idiots would want to live without all (not some) of these gifts – and yet they do. Presumably no-one would vote to do without justice, love and peace – but the demands of holiness and grace, of an existence based on God's truth, God's life – well, that is something else and many seem to want to have little or nothing to do with it.

Christ the King is not like some fearful tyrant who seeks to terrify and subjugate his people. Christ the King reigns from the throne of the Cross, reigns in the glory of being the One who has destroyed the power of sin and death (those things which really subjugate and enslave us) and has called us into a Kingdom which offers us joy and blessedness beyond our imagining.

"Thy Kingdom Come" we pray in the Our Father, because we know that it is yet to arrive and fully manifest itself. But we ourselves – like Blessed Miguel – can make sure that Christ the King already has full dominion in us. We pledge ourselves anew this weekend to serve our King, to own no other laws but His, to refuse to be mastered by sin, to grow in His love and in thoroughgoing service of our neighbour, especially seeking to show him or her that to acknowledge Christ as King is to find true liberty. If each and every person were to do that, what a transformation would there be in our society today.

"Long live Christ the King" said the Mexican martyr. May that be our prayer too.



### Sunday November 25th: The Solemnity of Christ the King (White)

Year 3 or C of the Lectionary at Mass

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

### The THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK OF THE YEAR: 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

<p><b>Monday November 26th: Feria. (Green)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m.</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Tuesday November 27th: Feria. (Green).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Benediction at 8 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Devotions</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Wednesday November 28th: Feria. (Green)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Novena before the Immaculate Conception at 8 p.m.</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Thursday November 29th: Feria. (Green)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Novena before the Immaculate Conception at 8 p.m.</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Friday November 30th: St Andrew, Apostle &amp; Martyr. Patron of Scotland. (Red)</b></p> <p><b>St Andrew</b> ( 1.c.) He was the elder brother of St Peter and both were fisherman in Galilee. He was a disciple of John the Baptist and was the first Apostle called by Our Lord. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, he evangelised Asia Minor and Greece and was martyred, probably at Patras, by crucifixion on an "X" shaped cross. Tradition has it that his relics were rescued and shipped to Italy where they are enshrined at Amalfi. He is the Patron Saint of Scotland and also Greece and Russia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Novena before the Immaculate Conception at 8 p.m.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Sunday December 2nd: The FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Purple)</b></p> <p><b>Mass &amp; Service Times:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>8.30 a.m. Low Mass</b></li> <li><b>10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass</b></li> <li><b>12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)</b></li> <li><b>12.45 p.m. Latin Mass 1962 Missal (in the Cloister Chapel)</b></li> <li><b>5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass in English</b></li> <li><b>Solemn Vespers and Benediction: 7.30 p.m.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Saturday December 1st: St Edmund Campion, Priest &amp; Martyr. Feast. (Red)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. (N.b. Advent talk at 11.30—see below)</b></li> <li><b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m.</b></li> <li><b>Benediction at 10.45 a.m.</b></li> <li><b>Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon &amp; from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass</b></li> <li><b>Vigil Mass of THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT at 5.45 p.m.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>St Edmund Campion</b> (1540-81) He was born in London, the son of a bookseller and although his parents were Catholic he became an Anglican. His brilliant mind led him to a scholarship at 15 to St. John's College, Oxford, and he became a fellow when only 17. His brilliance attracted the attention of such leading people as the Earl of Leicester, Robert Cecil, and even the Queen, who intended him for high office. He became an Anglican deacon but had grave doubts about Protestantism and further study convinced him he had been in error. He went to Douai and joined the Jesuits, then went to Bohemia for his novitiate, where he taught at the University of Prague. Following his ordination, he and Father Robert Persons were the first Jesuits chosen for the English mission and they arrived here in 1580. He preached wherever and whenever he could, converting many. He also set up a secret printing press to issue propaganda against the government's lies about religion and as a result he became the object of one of the most intensive manhunts in English history. Captured in 1581, he was imprisoned and tortured in the Tower of London. His travesty of a trial is well-documented, including the fact that, while the jury considered their verdict, the judge had blood on his hands which he could not wipe away. St Edmund was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn together with St Ralph Sherwin and St Alexander Briant.</p>	<p><b>Please pray for the sick:</b> Joe Houston, Margaret Casey, Lucia Tambura, Janina Stolarewicz, Frank McGuinness, Jacqueline Griffiths, Desmond Williams, John McCann, Kerry Mooney and Emma Wilson. <b>Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:</b> Ann von Twickel, Alberto Antonio, Elizabeth Snape and William Donoghue; <b>and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:</b> Fr Edmund Hodgson and Fr Joseph du Moulin Browne, both of this Oratory, Molly Singleton, Blaise Rosario, Nancie Owen, Cyril Harrison, George Heron, Harry Glanvill, William Corbett and Joan Handley.</p> <p>William Donoghue's funeral is on Wednesday at 12.45 p.m. Burial at Quinton. Reception of remains: Tuesday at 4.30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collections:</b>  <i>Thirty-third Sunday, 18th November:</i>  Offerory: £1,198  Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £463  <i>Thank you</i></p> <p><b>The Second Collection today will be for the Catholic Youth Service</b>  <b>Next week's Second Collection will be for the DDF</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The following are requested to read next weekend, December 1st: /2nd</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Geoff Jones</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin      12.00 p.m.: Sr Hilary      5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TODAY</b></p> <p><b>'WALK WITH ME'</b> The Archbishop's new edition Advent Prayer book is available at the back of the church. Please note that the book is priced at <b>£1</b> and the calendar at <b>30p</b>. Please buy extra copies for relatives and friends, especially those who are housebound. <b>The PATRICIANS DISCUSSION GROUP</b> meets at 3.15 p.m. in the Oratory House. The subject will be "What is the best means of Evangelisation today?" <i>All are welcome to attend.</i></p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS CARDS, Advent Calendars, Diaries etc</b> for <i>Aid to the Church in Need</i> are on sale at the Piety Stall in the Lower Cloister Hall. There is also a very good selection of books and DVDs, cribs, children's Christmas books, rosaries, statues etc. Still in stock is the life of Cardinal Newman 3 CD set, highly recommended by customers as a Christmas gift. (Please note that the introductory offer has now ceased and we have to sell at the full price of £14).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THIS WEEK</b></p> <p><b>ADVENT TALKS</b> this year will be on the subject of PURGATORY: what it is, how we know about it, why it exists, how we can avoid it, how it is possible to help those who are in it to get through it more quickly, and related issues. There are three talks all on <i>Saturday mornings after the 11 a.m. Mass (beginning c. 11.30 a.m.)</i>; December 1st, 15th, and 22nd. The subject of the first talk, which will be given by Fr Guy, is "What is Purgatory?" (Refreshments will be served as usual before each talk).</p>	<p><b>ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS/ carers:</b> There will not be a session this Monday, as was announced last week, as the series of talks has now ended for this term.</p> <p><b>NOVENA BEFORE THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b>, our Patronal Feast, commences on Wednesday at 8 p.m. (after Rosary at 7.45 p.m.) Please come and join in our prayers to ask Our Lady to intercede for the Parish and Oratory Community.</p> <p><b>ADORATION AT REDNAL</b> will <b>not</b> take place this week.</p> <p><b>THE SOCIETY OF ST HUGH</b> meets on Saturday at 10.15 a.m. in the Oratory House. (Please note change of time due to Advent talks). <i>All are welcome.</i></p> <p><b>The LEGION OF MARY</b> is having a Holy Hour at 12 noon in St Philip's Chapel on Saturday to pray for Legionnaires' mission to Berlin. <i>All are welcome.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS DRAW :</b> Unfortunately, the tickets have been delayed but we shall have them next weekend. <i>Many thanks to the person who donated prize money of £75.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTICES</b></p> <p><b>CONFIRMATION</b> will be administered in the early part of next year. If there is anyone who wishes to receive the Sacrament, please contact the Parish Priest, Fr Guy, <i>in writing</i> as soon as possible.</p>