

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.

December 13th 2009: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT *Gaudete!*

The Provost writes:

BEATIFICATION NEWS AND A FEW CHANGES AT THE ORATORY

As most of you know, it is now virtually certain that our Cardinal, John Henry Newman, will be beatified during the visit of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to our country in the middle of September next year: The exact date and venue have yet to be announced. Obviously, preparations for this are going to be a priority as 2010 arrives. One of the aspects of the Beatification of Cardinal Newman which is ever more far-ranging than the ceremony itself, is the on-going preservation of his very large archive—his letters, manuscripts, artefacts and so forth. Anyone who has ever visited the Oratory House will know just how extensive this is. Some time ago the Fathers decided that a properly constructed and staffed Archivium had to be built in order to preserve this precious collection for future generations. They also decided that a proper Visitors' Centre be built in order to cope with the number of pilgrims that might be expected to come to the Oratory once Cardinal Newman is beatified.

Such schemes cost money and money has to be raised. In order to facilitate this Fr. Felix Selden, the Apostolic Visitor to the Oratory (the Pope's representative in other words) has asked me to take on the job of being Promoter and fundraiser for these important undertakings. I will be working in close conjunction with the Cardinal Newman Society of America, whose President, Patrick Reilly, was here last week. Such work means for me quite a lot of travel, especially in the USA. Because of these absences and in order to help the Oratory here in Birmingham during these coming months, Fr. Felix has asked for Fr. Richard Duffield (a novice here 20 years ago and now a father of the Oxford Oratory) to come back to Birmingham. The Oxford Fathers and Fr. Richard in particular have responded generously to this invitation, and we in Birmingham are most grateful to them.

2010 will be an exciting and demanding year for us all. Please pray for God's blessing on all our undertakings for Cardinal Newman, the Oratory and the Universal Church.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S MISSION

Last Sunday we heard the voice of John the Baptist calling the people to repentance in preparation for the coming of the Christ.

Today we hear some of the teaching that he gave in answer to the questions various groups asked of him. Tax collectors came to ask his advice. Remember that these men were collaborators with the Roman authorities and got rich at their own fellow-citizens' expense. No wonder they were hated! Yet John did not drive them away with angry denunciations. He did not forbid the payment of taxes. Instead he told them not to take more from the people than was their due.

Then some soldiers came to John. These, too, would have been regarded with great resentment by the people on account of the fact that they kept the pagans in power. They asked John how they should change their ways. He told them quite simply not to intimidate people, nor to use their power to extort money from them as bribes, and not to grumble about their pay. His advice was practical and straightforward and prepared the way for Our Lord's even greater teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, and the final commandment at the Last Supper: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*"

Sunday December 13th: The Third Sunday of Advent (*Rose*)

- 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 Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 3 in the Divine Office

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Exposition on Saturday: 8.30–10.45 a.m.

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

Monday 14th December: *St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)*

- **Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8.00 p.m.**

St John of the Cross (1542-91) A Carmelite friar in his native Spain he agreed to assist his friend St Theresa of Avila in reforming the Carmelite Order which had become very lax and thus the Discalced Carmelites were founded. He suffered much persecution from his community, resistant to change. Known as the 'Mystical Doctor', he wrote many mystical works including *Ascent to Mount Carmel* and *The Dark Night of the Soul*.

Tuesday 15th December: *Tuesday of Advent Week 3. (Purple) Blessed Anthony Grassi, Oratorian Priest. Memoria (White)*

- **Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m.**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Blessed Anthony Grassi (1592-1671) An Oratorian at Fermo in Italy, he was renowned for his serenity and was a much sought-after confessor and adviser, even to Cardinals. Despite his obvious humility, he insisted on ensuring that he, and the fellow members of his community kept the Oratorian constitutions. He was considered to be truly like St Philip Neri in all ways.

Wednesday 16th December: *Wednesday of Advent Week 3. (Purple)*

Thursday 17th December: *Weekday of Advent 17th December. (Purple)*

'O Sapientia': *O Wisdom who come forth from the mouth of the Most High; reaching from end to end and powerfully ordering all things; Come! And teach us the way of prudence.*

Friday 18th December: *Weekday of Advent 18th December. (Purple).*

'O Adonai': *O Mighty Lord, and leader of the House of Israel, Who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and gave him the Law on Mount Sinai; Come! And redeem us with outstretched arm.*

Saturday 19th December: *Weekday of Advent 19th December. (Purple).*

- **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 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent) at 5.45 p.m.**

'O Radix Jesse': *O Root of Jesse, standing as a banner of the nations, before Whom kings will keep silent, and to Whom the Gentiles will make their prayers; Come! to deliver us—tarry no longer!*

December 20th: The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Purple) 'O Clavis David':

O Key of David & Sceptre of the House of Israel, What You can open, no man can shut. What You close, no man can open. Come! And bring out of prison the captive sitting in darkness & the shadow of death.

Mass & Service Times:

- **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 in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Vicky Davis, Pat Cartwright, Laurence O'Regan, Franco Muro, Geoff Jones, Francis Ratcliffe, David Pritchard, Leroy McCoy, Carolyn Knight, James Foyne, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Celia Reddy. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently** Lilian Hadley; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Charles William Nicholls, Michael Berg, Pearl Harper, Doriza Cozzi, John Winterton, Mary Barker, John Curtis, Patrick McLarnon, Thomas McAlinden, James Colqhoun and John O'Neill.

Lilian Hadley's funeral is on Friday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: Thursday at 4.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, December 19th/20th, Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

2nd Sunday of Advent: 6th December, 2009
Offertory: £1,167
Second: Poor Parishes: £980

Thank you

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND will be for Poor families in our own Parish. Please note that next weekend it will be for our branch of the SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul).

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES: Please take a leaflet, available at the church doors, which gives details of all services over this period.

EPIPHANY DRAW tickets are at the Church Doors. Please take as many as possible for yourselves and to sell to others. Please return counterfoils and money in an envelope marked "Prize Draw" to one of the Fathers or to the Oratory House.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week.

OUR ADVENT TALKS conclude on Saturday at 11.30 a.m. in the Lower Cloister Hall when Fr Philip will speak on "Newman and Conversion".

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL: Many of you will be making plans for your New Year celebrations. Why not consider seeing in the New Year with Our Lord and Our Lady? Exposition will be from 9.30 p.m. with prayers, as requested by Our Lady at Fatima, for peace, the conversion of sinners and reparation for sins against her Immaculate Heart. Mass of the Solemnity of the Mother of God (January 1st) will be at 11.45 p.m. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

NOTICES

The PIETY STALL is open after Saturday 11 a.m. and 5.45 p.m. **Masses and all Sunday Masses. Cribs and other Christmas decorations, DVDs, Books and other items for children, Christmas cards, diaries and other Christmas gift items are on sale,** including those we are selling on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need.

APF RED BOX HOLDERS are reminded that the quarter comes to an end on 31st December. It would be appreciated if you would cooperate with your collector in the exchange of your box. *Many thanks*

"The NATIVITY TRAIL" of paintings portraying the birth of Our Lord can be visited at the City's Art Gallery until January 6th, admission free. It is highly recommended for all the family. The Archbishop mentioned this in his homily at his installation in St. Chad's on Tuesday, thanking the Art Gallery authorities for making possible this exhibition in celebration of one of the central mysteries of our faith.

OLD PEOPLE'S PARTY in the main hall at St. Paul's School on Wednesday 16th December from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. If interested, please contact the school on 454 0895

CARDINAL NEWMAN HERITAGE PROJECT: The Oratory Primary School has set up an exhibition in the Cloister Buildings which can be viewed over the next few weeks. It covers the recent visit by Deacon Jack Sullivan, whose miraculous healing has made Cardinal Newman's beatification possible, and other aspects of life in Ladywood at Christmastide.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

St John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, immediately set about his patient and humble task of harmonizing his life as a minister with the holiness of the ministry he had received, by deciding to "live", physically, in his parish church: "Upon his arrival, he chose the church as his home. He entered the church before dawn and did not leave it until after the evening Angelus. There he was to be sought whenever needed".