

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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May 9th 2010: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE



THIS IS THE IMAGE OF OUR QUEEN

In the Gospel of the Sunday after Easter we heard how St. Thomas the Apostle came to believe in the resurrection because he saw Our Lord's wounds and was able to touch them. "My Lord and my God!" he exclaimed. Thomas's faith means so much to us because it teaches us that in *seeing* and *touching* the risen Lord Jesus, Thomas recognised that in a mysterious way he was seeing and touching God.

This is what we mean by the Incarnation. The Son of God, who is equal with the Father and was never made but has always existed along with His Father in heaven, actually became man when He became Mary's Son at the Annunciation. At the very moment Our Lady said to the Archangel Gabriel "Let it be done to me according to your word", God the Son became *her* son, and so became a member of our created human race while in no way ceasing to be God.

Last week we celebrated the feast day of two other Apostles, St. Philip and St James the Less. What we may forget is that St. Philip also said something that was as important for our understanding of the faith as the more famous event in which St. Thomas played such a significant part.

At the Last Supper, St. Philip said to Jesus, "Show us the Father and then we shall be satisfied". Our Lord's reply is one of the most extraordinary of all His sayings: "*Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father! ...Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? the words I say I do not speak as of myself; it is the Father living in me who is doing this work.*"

These words of Our Lord are of immense importance for the whole of our understanding of God; the relationship between the Father and the Son, and the relationship between the human nature of Christ and His godhead. Both these relationships are so close, far closer than anything we can understand. God the Father and the Son share the same nature, so that they are, quite simply, not two beings but One. The only thing that separates them, so to speak, is the very relationship itself. Yet we can also see that it is that very relationship that is so close that no division can be seen between them. Hence Our Lord's words: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me".

Hence Our Lord's other word to St. Philip: "To have seen me is to have seen the Father." The Father and Son are so close as to be, to all intents and purposes, indistinguishable in their unity. But this closeness between Father and Son is matched by the unity of Christ's human nature with His godhead. When the Apostles say Christ, they did not only see a human body, **they saw Almighty God made man**. Hence St. Paul could say that Jesus is the **perfect image** of the Father.

This changes the whole of our understanding about how we understand God's relationship with us. Since the Incarnation, God relates to us as one of us, visible and tangible. In his first letter, St John explains how "we have seen and handled the Word made flesh". He is God made visible to mankind.

Therefore our entire understanding of images is different from that of the Old Testament. In those days images of God were forbidden because they could do nothing but mislead men into error about God. But since Christ came, the true and perfect image of God, we can now have images of God, because we can have images of Christ Himself. This is the wonderful grace of having the image of Our Lord on the Shroud of Turin. We can see on that cloth the image of God Himself! Now that we can see God's face, we can make images of the image. God has presented Himself to us in the image of His Son's human nature. Now we are able, legitimately to make use of such images, and not only of our Lord, but also of His saints, and of no one more than of His Mother, the Woman by whom He took our visible, tangible human nature to Himself.

Today, therefore, in this beautiful season of Eastertide, when we celebrate the resurrection to eternal life of her Son, who is our redeemer and brother as well as God's Son, we are invited to honour Mary's image, and to imitate here on earth what we confidently believe her Son has done for her in heaven: we shall crown her image and sing her praises and thank God that through her He has made himself visible to us, and what we can see we can give true honour and devotion.

Sunday May 9th: Sixth Sunday of Eastertide (White)

- 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

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. May Devotions at 8 p.m. (Rosary 7.45 p.m.)

Holy Hour: Each Weekday except Monday from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. .

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

<p>Monday 10th May: Monday of Easter. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Holy Hour from 8 a.m.—9 a.m.</i> <i>May Devotions at 8.00 p.m. (following Rosary at 7.45 p.m.)</i> 	<p>May 16th: Solemnity of the Ascension: (White)</p> <p>Mass & Service Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<p>Tuesday 11th May: Tuesday of Easter. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.</i> <i>May Devotions at 8 p.m.</i> 	<p>Please pray for the sick Geoff Jones, Kevan Bleach, Pat Cartwright, Elizabeth Caswell, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Tony Farmer. Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Judy Spizer and Anne Kuczerawy; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Melinda Cozzi, Antoinetta Boffa, Yvonne Beesley, Philip Drew, Marilyn Ryan and Christine Moore-Bridger.</p> <p>Patrick Nash's Requiem will be on Tuesday at 11 a.m. Reception of remains: before Mass.</p> <p>Judy Spizer's funeral is on Friday at 10.30 a.m.</p>
<p>Wednesday 12th May: Wednesday of Easter (White). Optional memorias of Sts Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs. (Red); or of St Pancras, Martyr. (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.</i> <i>Adoration in the Cloister Chapel; Holy Mass 2.30—Benediction 4.30 p.m.</i> <i>May Devotions at 8 p.m.</i> <p>St Nereus & St Achilleus were Roman soldiers who converted and were martyred in 304 during the Diocletian persecutions. St Philip Neri received their relics on the occasion of the consecration of the <i>Chiesa Nuova</i>, (the Roman Oratory) where they are still revered. St Pancras was also martyred in 304. Although little is known of his life, he became a popular saint here after St Augustine of Canterbury dedicated a church to him.</p>	<p>The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, May 15th/16th The Ascension:</p> <p><i>Saturday 5.45 p.m:</i> Anne Roebuck <i>Sunday 8.30 a.m.:</i> Margaret Hawkins <i>12.00 p.m.:</i> Dennis Wood <i>5.30 p.m.:</i> Jason Mahoney</p>
<p>Thursday 13th May: Thursday of Easter. (White). Optional memoria of Our Lady of Fatima. (White) The Ascension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.</i> <i>High Mass (1962 Missal) at 8 p.m.</i> <p>Our Lady of Fatima Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children on six occasions in 1917, requesting that people do penance and make sacrifices for world peace and the conversion of sinners. Referring to herself as the "Lady of the Rosary", She particularly urged that we should <i>all</i> say the Rosary every day.</p>	<p>Collections:</p> <p><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter: 2nd May, 2010</i> Offertory: £1,227 Second: Cardinal Newman Cause: £870</p> <p><i>Thank you</i></p>
<p>Friday 14th May: St Matthias, Apostle. Feast. (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.</i> <i>May Devotions at 8 p.m.</i> <p>St Matthias Chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot, legend associates him with Ethiopia and Cappadocia.</p>	
<p>Saturday 15th May: Saturday of Easter (White).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.</i> <i>Latin Mass 1962 Missal at 9.30 a.m. in St Philip's Chapel</i> <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.</i> <i>Benediction at 10.45 a.m.</i> <i>Confessions from 1.55 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.</i> <i>First Mass of Sunday (Solemnity of the Ascension) at 5.45 p.m.</i> 	

<p>TODAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 00 p.m. Procession and Crowning of Our Lady's Statue <p>Please bring your children and friends from other parishes to this beautiful devotion in honour of the Queen of Heaven.</p> <p>THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>There will be A HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning until further notice to pray for the success of Cardinal Newman's beatification and the Pope's visit.</p> <p>MAY DEVOTIONS take place every weekday evening (except Bank holiday Monday) beginning with Rosary at 7.45 and continuing with meditation, prayers and Benediction at 8 p.m.</p> <p>ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will take place on Wednesday. There will be Holy Mass (at 2.30 p.m.), the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayers and the afternoon will end with Benediction at c. 4.30 p.m.</p> <p>ADORATION TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS on Saturday afternoon 16th May at St Teresa's Perry Barr. Please see the Notice Board for details.</p>	<p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Prayer for Atonement and Reparation as requested by the Bishops' Conference will take place in the Cathedral on Fridays 14th 21st and 28th May after 12.15 pm Mass until 2 pm. There will a period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to begin with, followed by a short service.</p> <p>ILLUSTRATED TALKS ON THE EARLY CHRISTIAN SAINTS: A short series of talks will be given in the Upper Cloister Hall on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd May, by Brother John Parker, S. M. who is an expert in Christian Roman History. (Many of you will remember his wonderful talks last year on the Catacombs.) Full details will follow.</p> <p>NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP takes place at St Francis', Handsworth from Monday 17th to Wednesday 26th May. Please see poster.</p> <p>VIGIL OF REPARATION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY will take place in the Cloister buildings on the night of the 11th June. Full details to follow.</p> <p>DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO EVESHAM with blessing of the sick, takes place on Saturday 12th June. Please see the poster for details.</p> <p>LOUGH DERG PILGRIMAGE: 'St Patrick's Purgatory' organised by Msgr Fallon, takes place from Thursday 17th—Sunday 20th June. Fare £180. Application forms from St Francis' Church, 101 Hunter's Road, Handsworth B19 1EB. Please book as soon as possible.</p>
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During Paschaltide, instead of the *Angelus*, we pray Our Lady's Easter Antiphon:

REGINA CAELI

Regina Caeli, lactare, Alleluia!
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!
Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!
Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!

Then:
Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!
He whom you were fit to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised has arisen, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God your prayer, Alleluia!

Let us pray: O God, who have graciously given joy to the world in the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ; grant, we pray, that through His mother the Virgin Mary, we may attain to the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen