

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.

May 18th 2008: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



THE MYSTERIES OF FAITH

On Easter night we heard the majestic account of the Creation in the opening chapter of the Book of Genesis, culminating in God's exclamation: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." In these words, God chose to begin a revelation of His own inner being that would eventually be accomplished in two great events: first, the Incarnation of the Son of God for our Redemption—which reached its accomplishment in the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of the Son; secondly, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit of God on the Day of Pentecost. Since Advent we have been celebrating all the events of our Redemption contained and revealed in these great events. With the coming of the Holy Spirit "to lead us into all truth" (Jn 16:13), God's revelation is now complete. He has now taught us the truth about His own self, first shown in those words of Genesis. There is but One God, yet there is not One Person

in that Godhead. God is One in nature and being and substance—but He is three Persons, each fully and equally God.

The mystery of the Trinity, which we commemorate and celebrate on this first Sunday after Pentecost—having now celebrated the Paschal mystery of our Redemption through Christmas, Lent and Eastertide—is the "most ancient of all mysteries", and root of every other. The Trinity is the life of God Himself, the meaning and origin of His most wonderful love and His longing to share that love with His lowly creatures. Hence the hidden depths in that exclamation of the Divine Persons at the beginning of human history: "Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness!" Yet of course, we must remember that the immensity of the created universe, however vast, is as nothing compared to God the Creator of all. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit never came into being at any moment. They are always simply and blissfully One God, without beginning or end, all-powerful and all-loving.

In today's Second Reading, St. Paul invokes the blessing of God in a way that suggests the unity and yet complementarity of the Divine Persons: "The **Grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ and the **Love** of God (the Father) and the **Fellowship** of the Holy Spirit be with you!" Not that any of these words is *exclusive* to each of the Three Divine Persons, yet each of them has a distinct role. The Father is the *source* from Whom the Son is "begotten". Even so, we must not think of the Son as begotten in time, *after* the Father. The Father is always "Father" because there is no moment when He does not yet have a Son. The Son is the perfect image of the Father who alone of the Persons becomes man. The Spirit alone "proceeds" from the Father as the source of the Godhead, and from the Son as the "best gift" of God to us. The Holy Spirit is the bond of love which so perfectly unites Father and Son that He is Himself a Person equal to them both in every way as God.

This knowledge of the mystery of the Trinity is God's profoundest self-revelation to us humans, a wonderful gift to His beloved creatures made in His own image. We should therefore reverence this mystery with deepest gratitude and awe. It is not to be treated as a puzzle to be solved, or to be over-simplified. The Mohammedans reject it on the grounds that "God cannot beget nor be begotten". Yet this mystery is not the product of either human ingenuity or intellectual confusion. It is the expression of the heart of God's deepest love for us and of His desire to share His very self with us—as He has shown us in Christ.

THE LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Following the Feast of the Trinity, therefore, we celebrate again the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son, not as we did at Christmas and Easter, when we recalled His historical presence on earth, but rather now in His continuing hidden presence in our midst in the Blessed Sacrament. This is the origin of our Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the "Body of Christ" given by Him to us at the Last Supper to continue His loving presence and work in His Church. *All that Christ was in the Incarnation is still entirely present in the Eucharist.*



Sunday May 18th: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (White)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. 1962 rite Mass (in the church) | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction |

SEVENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., ,

12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

May Devotions 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>Monday May 19th: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of <i>St Dunstan, Bishop.</i> (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novena for St. Philip and May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. <p>St Dunstan (d. 988) Born into a noble family, he became a Benedictine monk at Glastonbury and was ordained by his uncle, St Alphege. After his appointment as Abbot of Glastonbury, he developed the abbey into a centre of learning which also revitalised other monasteries. He was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and fought hard for the rights of the Church. He also contributed to the rebuilding of monasteries, destroyed during the Danish invasions, and restored discipline in the clergy.</p>	<p>Sunday May 25th: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi Sunday) (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. Solemn High Mass • 12.00 p.m. (First Holy Communion Mass) • 4.00 p.m. Corpus Christi Procession • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass in English • 7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction
<p>Tuesday May 20th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of <i>St Bernadine of Siena, Priest.</i> (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novena for St. Philip and May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. • <i>Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction</i> <p>St Bernadine of Siena (1380-1444) As a young man, he took over the running of the hospital in Siena when most of the staff died in an epidemic. His life then became one of prayer and service to others. He joined the Franciscans and after some years, became an itinerant preacher, especially spreading devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He was a popular and humble man, refusing requests to become a bishop.</p>	<p>Please pray for the sick: Peter Young, Stephen Realf, Antonietta Boffa, Maria Papa, Desmond Williams, Celia McHugh, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea, Vivian Beesley, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Cathal McGrory, Ellen Westwood and Frank McGuinness. Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Ben Boyd, Ken White, Arlene Glasgow, Michael Hayes and Joan Elvis. and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Ambrose St John of this Oratory, Iara Marshall, Jerry and Sarah Feeley, Christopher Duffy, Joe O'Driscoll and Thomas Barrett.</p> <p>Joan Murphy's funeral is on Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. Reception of remains: Tuesday at 4.30 p.m. Michael Hayes' funeral is on Friday at 10.30 a.m. Reception of remains: Thursday at 4.30 p.m. Joan Elvis' funeral is on Friday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: immediately before Mass.</p>
<p>Wednesday May 21st: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of <i>St Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and companions. Martyrs.</i> (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novena for St. Philip and May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. <p>St Christopher Magallanes & Companions In the early part of the 20th century, the Mexican government was fiercely anti-Catholic. Fr Christopher, a native Mexican and a well loved priest, especially for his spiritual and practical help to the native Indians, was accused of plotting against the government and sentenced to death without a trial. He forgave his executioners and was shot. We also remember today twenty-six other Mexicans martyred for the Faith in the 1920s and 1930s.</p> <p>Thursday May 22nd: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of <i>St Rita of Cascia, Religious.</i> (White) Memorial of Corpus Christi Thursday (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXTERNAL SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (See below): Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Rite, and Procession, at 8 p.m. <p>St Rita of Cascia (d. 1457) At an early age, she had a religious vocation but her parents insisted on her marriage. After eighteen years of marriage to an abusive man, he was killed in a brawl. When her (adult) sons later died, she joined the Augustinian convent in Cascia. She soon became renowned for her austerity, charity and prayer life. She is the patron of difficult marriages, and also of hopeless causes.</p> <p>Friday May 23rd: Feria. (Green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novena for St. Philip and May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. <p>Saturday May 24th: Our Lady on Saturday (White) or <i>Feria.</i> (Green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. • Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m. • Benediction and Novena before St Philip's Day at 10.45 a.m. • Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass • First Mass of Sunday: Corpus Christi Sunday, at 5.45 p.m. 	<p>The following are requested to read next weekend, May 24th/25th: Corpus Christi Sunday Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne 5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney</p> <p>Collections Whit Sunday, 11th May: Offertory: £1,498 Second: Oratory Students' Fund: £597 Thank you</p> <p>Second Collection today: Diocesan Development</p>

<p>TODAY</p> <p>EASTER DUTIES: please note that the time for making Easter Duties (confession and Holy Communion), which every practising Catholic is bound to do, comes to an end Today.</p> <p>The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall. Come and see!</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>CORPUS CHRISTI: The Solemnity of Corpus Christi has now been moved from the Thursday after Trinity Sunday to the following Sunday. However, for those who wish to observe the Feast on its original day, (recalling Maundy Thursday), there are two extra Masses on "Corpus Christi Thursday": 1) a Mass for the School children at 9.30 a.m. in Church, forming part of their preparation for Corpus Christi and the First Communion Mass which is on Sunday at 12 noon, (which all are welcome to attend) and: 2) a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Rite at 8 p.m., followed by the customary procession in church.</p> <p>THE NOVENA FOR ST. PHILIP'S DAY, incorporating May Devotions to Our Lady, continues each weekday night, (except Thursday—see above) beginning with Rosary at 7.45 p.m. followed by a short reading on St. Philip's life, and ending with Benediction.</p> <p>ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession around the grounds on this eve of Corpus Christi Thursday. <i>Please continue to pray that planning</i></p>	<p><i>permission for the security fence will be granted.</i></p> <p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Next Sunday, 25th May, CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY: Children of the Oratory Primary School will make their First Holy Communion at 12 noon Mass. That same Sunday afternoon, there will be an Outdoor Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 4 p.m. Parents and grandparents! Please bring children to honour Our Lord on this special occasion. They may wear white. (We would especially like to see those children who will have made their First Communion earlier in the day!). ROSES, ROSE PETALS OR OFFERINGS TO BUY ROSES for the Procession would be much appreciated. Please bring to the Oratory House no later than Saturday morning.</p> <p>ST. PHILIP'S DAY is on Monday, 26th May. Vespers the previous Sunday evening will be those of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, followed by veneration of the Relic of St. Philip. Since St. Philip's Day is a Bank Holiday, the Solemn Mass will be at 11 a.m. The Celebrant and Preacher will be Abbot Cuthbert Johnson OSB.</p> <p>VIGIL IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS & THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY will be held here on the night of Friday 30th May. High Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart will be at 8 p.m. The Vigil will commence immediately following (in the Cloister Chapel). There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary & special prayers of reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mass in honour of Our Lady at 2.30 a.m. We end with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 a.m.</p>
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