

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.

February 15th 2009: THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

TWO BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARIES

Next Saturday is the 209th anniversary of Cardinal Newman's birth, which we will celebrate, as usual, on the feast of our own St. Valentine (see over the page).

Last Friday also saw another notable anniversary: Charles Darwin's 200th birthday. Much of the current celebration of Darwin's work assumes that his theory of evolution has effectively displaced the idea of creation by God. It is widely taken for granted that there are two, and only two, mutually exclusive ways of understanding the origin of the natural world: you accept either the Bible's account of creation by God, literally in six days, or Science's account of the gradual development of different species according to the principle of "natural selection". But it is an oversimplification to suggest that these are the only possible accounts for the world as we know it, or that they completely contradict each other. Charles Darwin, it is true, came to doubt the existence of God, but that was for personal reasons unconnected with his scientific work on evolution.

It is not a matter of "Science v. Religion" at all. Take the Galileo case as another example. He did not get into trouble with the Church for holding a theory which allegedly 'disproved' the Bible. No, his theory that the earth goes round the sun had in any case first been taught many years earlier by Copernicus, a Polish priest and astronomer who didn't get into trouble for teaching it! Galileo got himself into trouble rather for obstinately insisting that the Bible was "wrong". But Galileo's great contemporary, the Oratorian Cardinal Baronius, explained that the theory that the earth goes round the sun was not in any way contrary to the teaching of the Bible or the faith of the Church. How? Because, Baronius said, "the Bible teaches us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens 'go'".

In the same way, Cardinal Newman was not opposed to Darwin's idea of evolution. To Newman, the idea of evolution was not contrary to the teaching of Scripture about creation. In his Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine of 1845, Newman had shown how doctrines develop and grow organically over many centuries. If ideas can develop, why not species of animal and plant life? Newman insisted that "evolution" as such is not a problem for Christians. The difficulty and danger in the idea of evolution arises in the contrast between blind "Fate" and guiding "Providence". Is evolution just an accident, or is it somehow guided? Newman saw that the idea that "blind fate" alone explained the world was nothing new. He commented in 1861, less than two years after the publication of Darwin's "Origin of Species": "To my mind it is wonderful that able men should take for granted that the notion of fixed laws is a new idea of modern times which is superseding... the old idea of a Providence ... Why, it is the old idea of Fate or Destiny which we find in Homer. It is no new and untried idea, but it is the old antagonist of the idea of Providence. Between the philosophies of Providence and Fate there has been a contest from the beginning. Fate may have new and better arguments now, but Providence has been able to stand against it for 3000 years, and there is no reason why it should not keep its ground still, though the philosophy of Fate may still have followers." In other words, what is at stake here is yet again not "Science v. Religion", any more than with Galileo. What the Bible teaches is that the world has not been shaped by the blind forces of random selection, but has been lovingly and providentially created by God. Genesis does not set out to explain how God went about it, just that what He did, out of nothing, was all good.

COLLECTIONS AT MASS

God bless you for your generosity when any appeal is made for a special cause! However, we ask you to consider this: The average contribution to our normal weekly Church collection is a mere £1.80 per head. Allowing for the fact that there are already some very generous donors, this means that there must be some who are only giving small change. Please remember that the collection is necessary for the running of the Church. For instance, our Church heating bill for the last quarter amounts to over £5,000! Of course everybody's bills are growing at this difficult time, but please ask yourself whether you ought to be giving more generously. Collections in Church are an essential aspect of our Christian stewardship. After all, it's not only heating and lighting that have to be paid for, but other parish expenses such as wages for sacristans, porters on door and telephone duty, secretarial assistance, paper and printing, etc. Moreover, please bring your children up to understand the importance of this duty by encouraging them to put into the collection themselves. Please also remember that if you pay tax the Church can gain enormously from Planned Giving. Forms are always available at the Doors. **Thank you.**

Sunday February 15th: The Sixth Sunday of the Year (Green)

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. Latin Low Mass—Sexagesima (1962 Missal) | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction |

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 2

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.

Monday February 16th: Feria. (Green)

- **Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m.**

Tuesday February 17th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order. (White)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (13th cent) These seven young men were members of well-known and rich Florentine families, but Florence at this time was a city of lax morality and corruption and so in 1233, they retreated to Mount Senario and started a community of mendicant friars dedicated to Our Lady, known as the Servants of Mary, ie. "Servites". Their first leader was St Buonfiglio. The order spread but did not arrive in England until the nineteenth century. The Servites were instrumental in spreading devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady.

Wednesday February 18th: Feria. (Green)

Thursday February 19th. Feria. (Green)

Friday February 20th. Feria. (Green)

Saturday February 21st: St Valentine, Martyr. Feast (Red). (209th anniversary of Cardinal Newman's birth).

- **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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **Vespers (see below) at 4 p.m.**
- **First Mass of the Sixth Sunday of the Year: at 5.45 p.m.**

St Valentine (3rd Century ?) When Fr. Newman returned from Rome to England to found the first English Oratory, Blessed Pope Pius IX presented him with the bodily remains of St Valentine, an early Christian martyr buried in the catacombs. Little is known about St Valentine's life; Valentine was a fairly common Roman name, but we know that he was a Christian martyr from the manner in which he was buried. Cardinal Newman, like St Philip Neri, was devoted to the "primitive times" of the Roman Church and the remains of our St Valentine, which now lie beneath the altar of St Athanasius (near the pulpit), provide a bond with those early days of the Church. Since nothing was known about the date of St Valentine's death, the Pope gave Fr. Newman permission to keep the Feast on his own birthday.

Sunday February 22nd: The Seventh Sunday of the Year (Green)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin low Mass (Quinquagesima Sunday-1962 Missal)**
- **10.30 a.m. High Mass**
- **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 Thomas Quinn, Priscilla & John Seery, Alf Cooke, Mary Cunliffe, Kim Potter, Patricia Healey, Raymond Colqhoun, Marie-Therese Jones, Margaret Casey, Carole Halls, Ingeborg Parkes and Nicola Moore-Bridger.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Evelyn Moore, Frank McGuinness and Harvey Gray; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Richard Bellasis, Charles and Nellie Preece, Kitty Harrison, Madeline Holland and Stan Willetts.

Evelyn Moore's funeral is on Tuesday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: before Mass.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, February 21st/22nd, 7th Sunday of the Year:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

Fifth Sunday of the Year: 8th February, 2009
Offertory: £1,203
Second: Music in our church: £552
Thank you

TODAY

The second collection today will be for the Heating of our Church. The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place as usual on **Wednesday, February 18th**, commencing with holy Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction. *However*, please telephone (454 0496) on the morning of February 18th to confirm that adoration is taking place there.

Our TALKS on ST PAUL & HIS TEACHINGS in this Year which Pope Benedict has designated as the Year of St Paul continue on **Saturday** in the Lower Cloister Hall after the 11 a.m. Mass (approx 11.30 a.m.) This week the talk will be given by Fr Philip on the subject of "St Paul's Letter to the Galatians" **These talks are extremely interesting and informative. Please come along and encourage your friends in other parishes to do so.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

REPLICA OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBITION at St Chad's Cathedral, from Saturday 21st February to Saturday 28th February. The exhibition includes two full length photographic replicas of the Shroud. One is 14.5 feet long, printed on cotton and very rare. There are also replica nails, a whip and a spear. This Lent, come and read again the story of the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord, and with the Shroud as a majestic and beautiful visual aid, see how he suffered for us. Admission free.

The ANNIVERSARY OF CARDINAL NEWMAN'S BIRTH, Saturday 21st February: Instead of the Annual Musical Oratory, the combined choirs of the Oratory School, founded by Cardinal Newman and now at Woodcote, near Reading, will sing Vespers at 4 p.m., followed by Benediction. Refreshments will be available in the Lower Cloister Hall beforehand, at 3 p.m. finishing promptly at 3.45 p.m. (The Saturday evening Mass will be at 5.45 p.m. as usual).

ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL FUNDRAISING DANCE will take place in the Grimshaw Room on Saturday 21st February at 8 p.m. Tickets are £4 each. Please telephone 0121 226 2251 or 226 6200.

PROCESSION OF THE RELICS OF ST CHAD takes place after the 12 noon Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday, 28th February. Year 6/5 children who have visited the Cathedral are encouraged to go with their parents.

CATHEDRAL DEANERY VOCATIONS GROUP will meet at St Patrick's, Dudley Road on Wednesday March 4th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome, to see how we can promote vocations to the priesthood and the religious life throughout our deanery and beyond.

NOTICES

OUR LADY'S 'PILGRIM' STATUE is available for all who wish to welcome Our Lady into their home and deepen their love for her, particularly by saying the Rosary. Our Lady's prayers are all powerful with God. The more we invite her into our hearts, the greater her influence for us with God. She will not only pray for our deepest needs and intentions, but will help us to find the way to a renewal of prayer in our daily lives. Forms are to be found at the doors of the church.

FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN AT SUNDAY 12 o'clock MASS: Parents can find it difficult to know what to do with young children during Mass. Perhaps some of you feel embarrassed if others may find it difficult to pay attention to what is going on, especially during the sermon! Remember—St. Philip's Chapel (near to the Plough and Harrow Road entrance) is available especially during the 12 noon Mass for parents to take young children. There is a collection of picture books with prayers for the Mass and stories about the Saints and the Scriptures. But if you do take your children into the chapel please stay with them. Please remember that the Chapel is not a playground, **and is only intended for use by children with their parents and not for any child who has received First Holy Communion.**

ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Friday May 1st—Friday May 8th 2009: Flying from Stansted Airport, the cost for sick pilgrims is £240. The cost for other pilgrims (who must be prepared to help with the sick in some capacity, however small) is approx £550. Anyone interested should contact Fr Paul or Fr Guy AS SOON AS POSSIBLE in order to send off for an application form as places are very limited.