

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.

January 18th 2009: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day of Prayer for Christian Unity and for Peace on Earth

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Today's Day of Prayer opens the traditional week of prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated every year from the 18th to 25th January, the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. At 3 p.m. today, we shall welcome the representatives of the 'Edgbaston & Ladywood Churches Together' for common prayer in our church.

Each day of the Week will have a different theme:

18 January: Christian communities face to face with old and new divisions.

19 January: Christians face to face with war and violence.

20 January: Christians face to face with economic injustice and poverty.

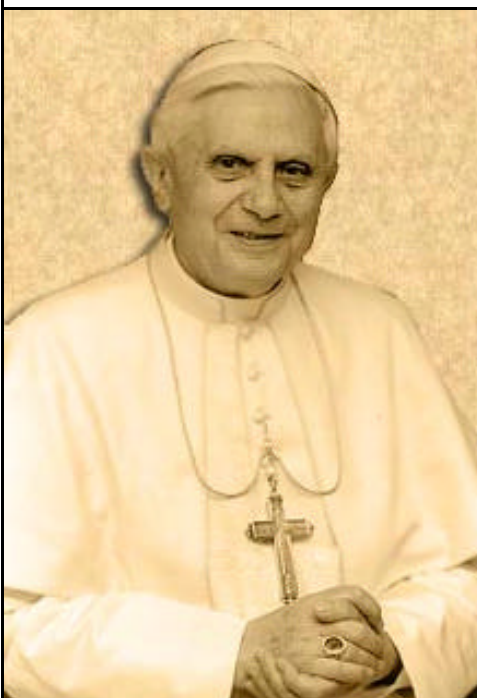
21 January: Christians face to face with ecological crisis.

22 January: Christians face to face with discrimination and social prejudice.

23 January: Christians face to face with disease and suffering.

24 January: Christians face to face with a plurality of religions.

25 January: Christian proclamation of hope in a world of separation.



The true meaning of the Prayer Week has been beautifully expressed by Pope Benedict, who bids us rely on the prayer of Christ who continues to pray for His Church. It is 'the knowledge of our human limits', writes the Pope, 'that drives us to abandon ourselves to the Lord with complete trust'. The Pope further underlines the urgency with which 'the world suffers from the absence of God, from God's inaccessibility. It strives to know the face of God. But how could the men of today meet the face of God in the face of Jesus Christ if we, Christians, are divided, if one set of teachings is against the other? Only united are we able to show the world - that needs it- the face of God, the face of Christ'.

The vocation of Peter is to ensure these teachings. It is his mission to exercise the ministry of Unity. The vocation of Paul is to extend it. Unity is a grace, a gift. We must pray for it, and especially that, in this year dedicated to St Paul, Christians, called to witness to the truth and meaning of human life, from the womb to the grave, will begin to mend the breaches of the centuries through a renewed life of prayer and common witness to life. Only thus will we sustain the ecology of human nature, enabling through grace the growth and education of the human person in the loving ambience of families wedded to God, and open to the gift of children. Whether we are called to the single life consecrated to God, or to the vocation of Holy Matrimony, let us ask Our Lady, help of Christians, to help us during this week to begin to rebuild a civilisation in which children are welcome, and are guaranteed the loving protection of a father and mother for life.

Sunday January 18th: The Second Sunday of the Year (Green)

- 8.30 a.m. **Low Mass**
- 9.30 a.m. **Latin Low Mass (1962 Missal:)** (3rd Sunday after Christmas)
- 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 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 January 19th: St Wulstan, Bishop. Feast. (White)

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

St Wulstan (1008-95) He was born in Warwickshire and studied at Evesham and Peterborough before joining the Benedictines at Worcester, later being appointed Bishop of Worcester. He so impressed William the Conqueror that he was the only native Bishop retained following the Norman Conquest. He did much to help the poor and to defend the defeated Saxons against harsh treatment by the Normans. A man of prayer and humility, he died during his daily ritual of washing the feet of twelve poor men.

Tuesday January 20th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Fabian, Priest & Martyr. (Red); or of St Sebastian, Martyr. (Red)

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

St Fabian (d. c.250) A layman, he was elected Pope in Rome following the discussions concerning who should be the successor to Pope Anteros, during which a dove descended on Fabian and this was taken as "...a clear imitation of the descent of the Holy Spirit..." In a short era of peace before the election of the Emperor Decius, the Pope did a great deal to build up and strengthen the Church. The reintroduction of persecution of Christians led to his martyrdom.

St Sebastian (d. c.288) Reputed to have been an officer in the Emperor Diocletian's Imperial Guard, he converted and was martyred, firstly by being shot with arrows and then by being clubbed. The Roman catacombs named after him is one of the most famous and was much loved by St Philip Neri.

Wednesday January 21st: St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr. Memoria. (Red)

St Agnes: Mentioned in the Roman Canon, she was martyred c. 304, at the age of twelve for her Christianity and for refusing to give up her virginity, which she had consecrated to God.

Thursday January 22nd. Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr. (Red)

St Vincent (d. 304), the proto-martyr of Spain. He was arrested with the Bishop of Sargossa, during the persecution by Spain's governor, Dacian, and tortured by being roasted on a grid iron, and then left to die in a prison cell full of broken pottery.

Friday January 23rd. Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Nicholas Owen, English martyr. (Red)

St Nicholas Owen (d. 1606) A Jesuit lay-brother and an excellent craftsman, he used his talents to construct priests' hiding places, probably the most notable of which are at Harvington Hall. Captured in 1594 and tortured he refused to give-up any names and was released. However, in 1606, he gave himself up to create a distraction from priests in hiding on the verge of discovery. This time, he died at the hands of his torturers still not having given them any information.

Saturday January 24th. St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White).

- **Mass 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**
- **Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of the Third Sunday of the Year: at 5.45 p.m.**

St Francis de Sales: (1567-1622): Cardinal Newman had particular devotion to St Francis who himself had been influenced by St Philip Neri. As Bishop of Geneva, and renowned for his gentleness, sensitivity and wisdom, he had drawn many protestants back to the Faith. He

Sunday January 25th: The Third Sunday of the Year (Green)

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

Please pray for the sick Mary Yates, Mary Cunliffe, Patricia Healey, Raymond Colqhoun, Marie-Therese Jones, Margaret Casey, Carole Halls Peter Burt, Margaret McKenna and Kim Potter.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Sheila Wooldridge and Joe Mulryan; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Nelly Pryer, Ben & Edith Anthony, Mary Ahern, Noreen Walton, Peter Job, Keith Goodman, Fr Arthur May, Patrick & Kathleen Beeton, Phyllis Gilrairie, Patrick Lawless, Martin Holland and Gerard Tracey.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, January 24th/25th, 3rd Sunday of the Year:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan
Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

Baptism of Our Lord, 11th January:
Offertory: £1,389
Second: SPUC: £671

Crib Collection:
Apostles of Jesus Seminary in Uganda: £841.59

Thank you

The second collection today will be for the DDF

TODAY

EDGBASTON & LADYWOOD 'CHURCHES TOGETHER' SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY takes place in our church at 3 p.m. this afternoon and we hope that you will support it. (See overleaf)

The ORATORY CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW: A list of prize winners is in the Notice Board to the right of the door of the church. If you are a prize winner, please collect your prize from the Lower Cloister Hall after Sunday Mass; otherwise, please telephone the Oratory during normal office hours to arrange collection from the parish secretary. (Do not turn-up at the Oratory on spec, to save you having a wasted journey).

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses. (The 2009 Diocesan Directory is on sale.)

THIS WEEK

The PARISH COUNCIL AGM is on Monday at 8 p.m. in the Lower Cloister Hall.

ADORATION AT REDNAL is expected to take place on Wednesday, commencing with holy Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction. However, due to the winter weather and illnesses at present, please kindly telephone (454 0496) on Wednesday morning to confirm that adoration is taking place there.

Our TALKS on ST PAUL & HIS TEACHINGS continue on Saturday in the Lower Cloister Hall after the 11 a.m. Mass (approx

11.30 a.m.) The subject of the talk, to be given by Fr Gregory, will be: "St Paul and his Companions".

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB (Edgbaston) resumes on Friday 23rd January from 12—2 p.m., to read 'The Cassandra Curse' by Fiorella Nash. New members welcome. For details, please contact Jackie Parkes: 688 4154 or rosary@blueyonder.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

To Mark THE YEAR OF ST PAUL & THE CONCLUSION OF CHURCH UNITY WEEK there will be an Ecumenical Evening Prayer Service (Vespers) on Sunday 25th January at St Chad's Cathedral at 5 p.m. Archbishop Nichols will preside and Bishop Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham, will preach. There will be light refreshments afterwards in the Grimshaw Room.

PAULINE MISSION PROJECT 2009 invites people from the Deanery Parishes, members of different Catholic organizations or groups, and individuals who may be interested in giving time (2 to 3 hours a week) to help with visiting homes and families in the city centre parishes. To look at the possibilities a meeting has been arranged at Cathedral House, St Chad's on Wednesday 4th February at 7 p.m.

The ANNUAL MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place on Saturday 7th February at 11 a.m. Full details and booking forms for lunch will be available shortly.