

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School: web.oratory.bham.sch.uk



*This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.*

### March 15th 2009: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



"You shall not make my Father's house a house of trade."

#### ZEAL FOR GOD'S TEMPLE

In today's Gospel St. John tells us how, almost at the beginning of His public ministry, Our Lord entered the Temple of Jerusalem shortly before the Passover and found money-changers and sellers of cattle, sheep and pigeons going about their trade.

What were they doing there? All these things were in some way connected with the Temple worship: animals for sacrifice and money changers who converted foreign coinage into that the Jews used to pay Temple taxes and for buying what was necessary for sacrifices. Their presence was, therefore, in one sense, legitimate.

Yet Our Lord's reaction was shocking. He overturned the tables and whipped the traders out of the Temple, saying "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade." Thus He claimed a special relationship with God, "His Father", and implied that He was acting on His Father's behalf. St. John tells us that His Apostles were witnesses to this and remembered the words of psalm 68:10: "Zeal for Thy House will devour me". This is significant, because psalm 68 is one of the psalms of the Passion, and so the shadow of Our Lord's future sufferings is already cast over this event.

The question is sometimes asked by those who would like to downplay Our Lord's divinity, "doesn't this show that our Lord *did* commit at least one sin—that of anger?" We must be careful to distinguish between *righteous* and *unrighteous* anger. Anger is not sinful when it is the right response to an injustice; the greater the injustice, the more justified the anger. Anger therefore

only becomes sinful when it is disproportionate or wrongly founded, say on selfish motives, or involves loss of temper.

So what is our Lord's justification for such a dramatic removal of these traders from their business? It is a radical response to the avariciousness of those who made a rich living out of the Temple cult. It can also be seen that Our Lord is pointing to a cult and Sacrifice yet to come, which will not involve such necessities: the offering of His own Body and Blood in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Unsurprisingly, such a dramatic event at the very heart of the Jewish religion and national identity could not go unnoticed or unchallenged. Immediately the religious authorities demanded that Jesus show them a sign to justify His acting in this way. As elsewhere in the Gospels, when He was confronted by such a demand for a sign, He answered in a mysterious phrase: "Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up." At the time, nobody understood what He meant. They reply in disbelief: "It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary, will you rebuild it in three days?" St. John, writing many years later, is able to explain that, as with the reference to psalm 68, this strange saying was prophetic of His own future sufferings, and particularly of His death and resurrection. Moreover, as Jesus had just claimed God for His Father, in this way He also claims a mysterious identity between Himself and the Temple. St. John recognises this when he comments: "He was speaking of the Sanctuary that was His Body".

Obscure and mysterious as it was to all those who heard it at the time, this saying was nevertheless not forgotten. After such a dramatic opening to His career in Jerusalem that is hardly surprising. After all, it is to be expected that Our Lord had made many implacable enemies on that day, who were only too happy to look for an opportunity to destroy Him, thus fulfilling His very own prophecy. Those words would be pondered and brought out once again much later at His trial before the High Priest as an accusation. St. Mark's account makes it clear that by the time of His trial there was at least one different version of what Jesus had originally said: "We heard Him say, I am going to destroy this Temple **made by human hands** and in three days build another, **not made by human hands**." (Mk 14:58) This version makes the association of Our Lord's words with His own body even stronger, though without the understanding of those who recalled it then. It also suggests that the Temple of which Jesus speaks is to be His mystical Body, the Church, which will be born from His side pierced on the Cross.

### Sunday March 15th: The Third Sunday of Lent (Purple)

- 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 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 3

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.

Stations of the Cross at 1.15 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Fridays in Lent

**Monday March 16th: Monday of Lent Week 3. (Purple)**

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

**Tuesday March 17th: St Patrick, Bishop. Apostle of Ireland. Feast (White).**

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

**St Patrick** (c.385– c.461) He was a Briton and son of a Deacon who was a civil official who was taken captive and sold into slavery in pagan Ireland. Having escaped, he realised that God was calling him to return and bring the Gospel to the Irish.

**Wednesday March 18th: Wednesday of Lent Week 3. (Purple) Commemoration of St Cyril of Jerusalem**

**St Cyril** (c.315-386) Appointed Bishop of his native Jerusalem at a time when the Church was fighting Arianism, his episcopacy was marked with struggles to defend the Church, not only from heresies but also in matters of jurisdiction. His enemies forced him into exile on three occasions resulting in more than 35 years as a Bishop away from his see. When he finally returned he devoted his time to reclaiming the city from corruption and disorder. He is renowned for his profound writings on Doctrine, particularly those addressed to new converts on the Sacraments .

**Thursday March 19th. The SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH (White)**

- **High Mass at 8 p.m.**

**St Joseph** has been revered by the Church since early times, being described in the Gospel as "a just man" who accepted Our Lady as his wife, and the Christ Child as his son. Devotion to him in the West was promoted by St Teresa of Avila, and Pope Pius IX formally constituted him as Patron of the Universal Church. Amongst other patronages, he is patron of the dying on account of the likelihood that he died before Our Lord left Nazareth, and therefore in His presence and that of Our Lady.

**Friday March 20th. Friday of Lent Week 3. (Purple)**

- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 1.15 p.m. and 8 p.m.**

**Saturday March 21st. Saturday of Lent Week 3. (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 the Fourth Sunday of Lent: at 5.45 p.m.**

**Sunday March 22nd: The Fourth Sunday of Lent "Laetare" (Rose)**

**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:** Katie Hayward, Alf Cooke, Mary Cunliffe, Kim Potter, Raymond Colquhoun, Marie-Therese Jones, Margaret Casey, Carole Halls and Louise Southwell.  
**Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Ingeborg Parkes and Emily Nugent; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Bro Aloysius Boland and Fr William Neville, both of this Oratory, Emmie Worrall, George Bernard Dunn, Moira Gordon and Anna & Will McNamara.

Lilian Walker's funeral is on Tuesday at 10.00 a.m. Reception of remains on Monday at 4.30 p.m.

**The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, March 21st /22nd, The Fourth Sunday of Lent:**

*Saturday 5.45 p.m.:* Jenni Hardwick  
*Sunday 8.00 a.m.:* Margaret Hawkins  
*12.00 p.m.:* Dulcie Robinson  
*5.30 p.m.:* Jason Mahoney

**Collections:**

*Second Sunday of Lent:*  
*8th March, 2009*  
Offertory: £1,487  
Second: Lent Fast Day: £936  
*Many Thanks*

#### **TODAY**

**The second collection today will be for the music in our Church.**

**The PIETY STALL** is open after all Sunday Masses. It also includes a wide selection of books for spiritual reading in Lent, and gifts for Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

#### **THIS WEEK**

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** takes place this week on **Wednesday**, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction.

**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 Guy on the subject of "St Paul's Letters to the Colossians and Philemon" **These talks are extremely interesting and informative. Please come along and encourage your friends in other parishes to do so.**

**YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, YOUR SAY** Conference takes place on Saturday 21st March at the Deaf Cultural Centre, Ladywood Road, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to all residents of Ladywood an Sumnerfield, this important event gives an opportunity to quiz local politicians about the current state of life in this district, including such issues as: safety on the streets; youth provision; illegal parking. Follows on from a similar event in November 2007. **We would be grateful for as many local parishioners as possible to attend this exercise in local democracy. We can only make our voice heard if we are represented!** Please contact Fr Guy if you are able to go.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE** is holding a meeting entitled "Being Salt and Light in God's World" at the Evangelical Church, Greatfield Road, Kidderminster on Wednesday 25th March at 7.30 p.m. to discuss some very important and current threats to Christian life in this country such as: legalised attacks on Religious liberty—proposed Free speech Amendment by the Government—the Sanctity of Life. there are leaflets available for anyone who is interested in attending, describing the subjects under discussion and directions to the venue. Although this is the Feast of the Annunciation, it is such an important set of issues facing all Christians in this country now that it is important for as many persons as possible to attend and support this initiative.

**The LEGION OF MARY** Annual Acies will take place at St Patrick's Church, Dudley Road at 7 p.m. on Wednesday March 25th. All active members and auxiliaries, senior and junior, are invited.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)** is holding its annual Study Morning on Saturday, Marcy 28th in the Grimshaw Room at St. Chad's Cathedral from 10.45 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., at which Mgr. Moran will give a talk on the life of St. Paul followed by reflection and prayer. £3 admission includes tea and coffee. All are welcome.

**ORATORY PATRICIANS DISCUSSION GROUP** next meets on Sunday, March 29th at 3.15 p.m. in the Oratory House. Subject: "The best way of keeping Holy Week well".

**THE SEVEN CHURCHES WALK** will take place this year on Saturday 4th April beginning from St. Catherine's Bristol Street at 2 p.m., including stations for prayer at St. Catherine's, St. Chad's, St. Francis's, the Convent of Mercy, Handsworth, St. Patrick's, St. Paul's Convent and the Oratory.

This devotion is based the custom initiated by St. Philip of a walking pilgrimage round seven churches in Rome, which became very popular in and after his lifetime. We keep up this custom praying the Rosary around the streets, canal side towpaths and the Edgbaston reservoir as an act of intercessory prayer for the city of Birmingham. In addition to the various stations in the Catholic Churches of the locality, we also pray for the unity of Christians, and for the evangelisation of non-Christians whose churches and places of worship we pass. Although we encourage as many as possible to join us in this exercise which is both interesting and devotional, we must point out that it is entirely unsuited to anyone who has any difficulty whatsoever in walking.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** resumes on Easter Tuesday 14th April to discuss the writings of Catholic Apologist Raymond de Souza. All women are welcome. Contact Mrs. Jackie Parkes on 0121 688 4154 for more details.

#### **NOTICES**

**BAGS OF FIREWOOD** from Rednal are on sale for £5 (comparable sized bags sell commercially for £6 or more). See Fr Guy.

**LENTEN ALMS BOX** is by Plough and Harrow door and the gate to St. Charles's chapel (where Cardinal Newman's relics are displayed). As usual the proceeds will go to Fr. Hudson's Society.