

# 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.*

## November 22nd 2009: THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

### KING OF TRUTH

In today's Gospel, Our Lord is as far from appearing a true king as anyone could appear to be; He has been bound and beaten about the face, and roughly pulled from the High Priest's Palace to the Roman Governor's seat of justice.

St. John here tells us how Jesus was interrogated by the Governor himself, Pontius Pilate—whose name has gone down in history for what he did on this day. Pilate has heard from the Chief Priests that they are sending him this “revolutionary” who claims to be a “king”. Pilate thinks he knows what to expect. He has seen this type before. There is another murderous rabble-rouser in custody whom he knows about, called Barabbas—a thoroughly unpleasant man who has committed murder in pursuit of his revolutionary ends. Pilate would be only too happy to see the end of him.

But when Jesus of Nazareth appears, even in His bruised and beaten state, Pilate is strangely affected: this man is *awesome*—He cannot be a common criminal. So Pilate effectively asks Him: “Are you *really* a King, then?” There is no irony in this question. Pilate wants to know from Jesus's own lips what He has to say about Himself. But Our Lord turns Pilate's question back to him. Jesus stands before Him not as the interrogated prisoner, but as the One who, on the Last Day, will judge not only Pilate himself, but every human being who has ever lived. No wonder Pilate is awestruck.

Our Lord's question is curious: “Do you ask this of your own accord or have others spoken to you about me?” What is Pilate to make of it? Why should it make any difference now—*now* when Jesus is on the verge of being condemned to death—why should it matter whether Pilate himself recognises Christ's kingship, or has simply been told about it by His accusers?

The reason why Our Lord asks this question is made clear in what follows. Pilate first of all justifies his own question by saying that he is only an outsider: “...it is your own people and the Chief Priests who have handed you over to me. What have you done to deserve being treated by them in this terrible way?”

Our Lord replies that if He were a king such as the world knows, then His followers would have fought to protect Him from His enemies. But that is not the kind of kingdom He rules over. “So”, Pilate returns to his question, but in a new form. He asks Jesus, “You are a king then, but of some other kind than those the world respects?” Our Lord answers him, saying, “it is you yourself who say it”. Our Lord is telling Pilate that not only is He a king, but that Pilate acknowledges it, however imperfectly.

He continues with an explanation of the nature of His kingship, which gives Pilate his answer and the reason why Pilate should do all in his power not only to release Him, but to honour Him and recognise Him as His Lord: “I am a king and I came into the world for this reason: to bear witness to the truth.” Christ's kingship is as Lord of all truth. Truth is not universally recognised in the world. The world is founded on lies—compromise, dishonesty, hatred, envy and greed. It is not that there is no goodness in the world—far from it!—there are many great and good persons who avoid these things—but they do not represent the powers that rule the world. Our Lord is saying that all those who do resist and avoid the lies that run the world “listen to His voice”. They recognise truth and goodness. They will therefore recognise and honour the Lord of all truth and goodness even now in His Passion.

Those who recognise and honour Him now, and who resist the falseness of this world will therefore rejoice with unbounded joy when, as St. John says in today's second reading, “they will see Him coming on the clouds” in glory on the Last Day. But then He will be seen not only by those who have honoured Him and longed for Him, but “every eye shall see Him, even those who pierced Him” in His sacred Passion, “and all the races of the earth will mourn over Him”. Yes, all those who suffer now for Him and for the sake of Truth will rejoice at His coming in glory. But all those who have persecuted Him and His followers will wail for grief when they see who it is that they have been persecuting all the time.

### Sunday November 22nd: The Solemnity of Christ the King (*White*)

- 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. (*Families with young children*)
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

### THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: 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.*

*Fridays in November : Stations of the Cross for the Holy Souls at 8 p.m.*

*Exposition on Saturday: 8.30– 10.45 a.m.*

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

**Monday 23rd November: Feria. (Green).** Optional memorias of *St Clement I, Pope & Martyr. (Red)*; or of *St Columban, Abbot. (White)*

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

**St Clement I** (1st c.) One of the first Popes, he is likely to have known Sts Peter and Paul. He wrote an important Epistle to Christians in Corinth which is evidence of the pope's role as arbiter in disputes within the Church. Tradition says that he was banished from Rome and forced to work in the marble quarries, but his success in gaining converts led to the order for his death by drowning with an anchor around his neck. His body was recovered by one of his disciples and eventually, his relics were taken to Rome where they are preserved in the church which bears his name.

**St Columban** (c 540-615) An Irish monk, he travelled to Europe and founded several abbeys in England, France and Italy under the strict rule prevalent in Ireland. He encountered a great deal of opposition due to his denouncements of court immorality and criticism of lax bishops, which led to his exile on several occasions, but his determination left a lasting influence on Western European civilisation.

**Tuesday 24th November: St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions. Martyrs. (Red)**

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

**St Andrew Dung-Lac & Comps:** Fr Andrew, a native Vietnamese Parish priest, was horribly tortured before his beheading in 1839. He is honoured as the representative of 117 Vietnamese Catholics martyred in the 16th-19th centuries. Included in that number were 96 Vietnamese and 21 foreign missionaries, amongst them were bishops, priests and lay men and women. Many died horrible deaths.

**Wednesday 25th November: Feria. (Green).** Optional memoria of *St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr. (Red)*

**St Catherine of Alexandria** (4th c.) According to tradition, she was a highly intelligent woman who was responsible for the conversions of several pagan philosophers. She was martyred on a spiked wheel at Alexandria in Egypt and legend has it that angels brought her body to a monastery at Sinai.

**Thursday 26th November: Feria. (Green)**

**Friday 27th November: Feria. (Green)**

- **Stations of Cross for the Holy Souls at 8. p.m.**

**Saturday 28th November: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or Feria. (Green)**

- **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 Sunday (First Sunday of Advent) at 5.45 p.m.**

**November 29th: The First Sunday of Advent. (Purple):**

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

**Please pray for the sick:** Geoff Jones, David McLean, Frances Ratcliffe, Veronica Nash, Hazel Sawford, David Pritchard, Leroy McCoy, Carolyn Knight, Paul Beesley, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, Ray Colquhoun, Celia Reddy, Tony Farmer and John Murphy. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Joan MacLennan.

**and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Edmund Hodgson of this Oratory, Fr Roland Gierak, Elizabeth Snape, Blaise Rosario, Nancie Owen, George Heron, Esther deVere, Cyril Harrison, Kitty McQuaid and Muriel Smith.

**The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, November 28th/29th, First Sunday of Advent:**

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick  
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins  
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson  
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

### **Collections:**

Thirty-third Sunday: 15th November, 2009  
Offeritory: £1,491

Second: Maintenance of our church: £675

**Many thanks**

### **TODAY**

**The Second Collection today will be for the Catholic Youth Service EPIPHANY DRAW** tickets are at the Church Doors. Please take as many as possible for yourselves and to sell to friends, colleagues and relatives. Please return counterfoils and money in an envelope marked "Prize Draw" and hand in to one of the Fathers or at the Oratory House.

**EPIPHANY PRIZE DRAW:** Books of Tickets are at the doors of the church. Please take and sell as many as you can. (£1 per book or 20p per ticket). Please return ticket stubs and money in an envelope marked 'prize draw' to the Oratory house or to one of the Fathers. Many thanks to the kind persons who have donated a total of £60. The 1st prize will be £500 and a 2nd of £100 so further donations of cash would be appreciated. Please address to Fr Guy.

### **THIS WEEK**

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Wednesday, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.30 p.m.

**NOVEMBER: STATIONS OF THE CROSS** on Fridays at 8 p.m. for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**OSCOTT COLLEGE 10TH PUBLIC LECTURE** will be held on Tuesday 24th at 8 p.m. will be given by Professor Anne Duggan, a leading authority on St Thomas Becket. Tickets are not required. Please see poster for details.

**OUR ADVENT TALKS** start next Sat 28th November at 11.30 a.m. in the Lower Cloister Hall. The first talk will be on "Cardinal Newman's Cause for Canonisation" and will be given by Fr. Paul.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**HALF DAY OF PRAYER & REFLECTION at ST CATHERINES', Bristol St, on The Subject of 'The Hospitality of God' on Saturday, 5th December, from 1-5 p.m.** Please take sandwiches/food to share for 12 noon.

### **NOTICES**

**The PIETY STALL** is open after Saturday 11 a.m. and 5.45 p.m. Masses and all Sunday Masses. **Advent Calendars, Books and other items for children, Advent wreaths, Cribs, Christmas cards, diaries, DVDs and other Christmas and gift items are on sale**, including those we are selling on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need.

**NATIVITY TRAIL.** Once again the City Art Gallery is hosting the "Nativity Trail" of paintings portraying the birth of Our Lord. It can be visited from November 27th to January 6th, admission free. There is an illustrated guide book available to lead you through the exhibition. The opening celebration on Friday, 27th November between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., is open to anyone, but please let Fr Guy know in writing by Wednesday next, 25th November if you would like to take part in the opening celebrations. Going by previous years, this should be a thoroughly enjoyable experience and is highly recommended for all families.

**ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.** All sick, disabled and aged people are invited to take part in this pilgrimage from Friday 30th April to Friday 7th May. A contribution of £250 is asked towards the cost, but anything over that amount is welcomed from those who can afford it. Accommodation is in the Accueil Notre Dame. For further details contact Anthony Brown on 01823 480441 or e-mail: [alison-anthony@battansfarm.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alison-anthony@battansfarm.fsnet.co.uk)

### **YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI:**

St John Vianney seemed overwhelmed by a boundless sense of responsibility: "Were we to realize fully what a priest is on earth, we would die: not of fright, but of love... Without the priest, the passion and death of our Lord would be of no avail. It is the priest who continues the work of redemption on earth... What use would be a house filled with gold, were there no one to open its door? The priest holds the key to the treasures of heaven: it is he who opens the door: he is the steward of the good Lord; the administrator of his goods ... Leave a parish for twenty years without a priest, and they will end by worshipping the beasts there ... The priest is not a priest for himself, he is a priest for you".