

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.

October 5th 2008: THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



OWNERS OR STEWARDS?

Today's Gospel is one of Our Lord's most powerful parables, telling the story of the Owner of a Vineyard and his wicked tenants. Our Lord is effectively retelling a famous parable from the Prophet Isaiah, which is today's first reading. There God is the owner of a certain vineyard which is really the People of Israel, as Isaiah explains. The point of both parables (which are stories apparently about earthly affairs, but with a deeper spiritual meaning) is that God is unhappy because His Chosen People have rejected Him, and He resolves to punish them by giving them over to the power of their enemies.

Our Lord tells this story in a new and powerfully pointed way, emphasising God's great patience in the face of the tenants' continued disregard for Him. God sends in vain many messengers (the Prophets of the Old Testament), who are seriously abused by the people. Finally, God decides to send His own Son, saying "*they will respect my Son*". Yet the opposite is true. The tenants gang up together and kill the Son in the insolent hope of wresting the vineyard from God for themselves. Our Lord told this severe parable to the Chief Priests and Elders. Because He knows that they will certainly recognise and fully understand what He is saying to them, He asks them their opinion: "*What will the owner of the vineyard do to the tenants who have not only persistently refused to give Him the produce from His vineyard but have even dared to kill His Son?*" They answer that "*He will bring those wretched tenants to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to Him.*" So our Lord's final sentence is a forceful warning to the Chief Priests and Elders: "*I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.*"

It is one of Our Lord's constant teachings that, from those to whom much has been given, much will be demanded in return. Yet this does not only apply to the Jews, the Chosen People of the Old Testament. It is also just as applicable to all of us who have been Chosen by God in Baptism. We are the Israel of the New Testament, the Church of God, Christ's mystical Body on earth. We are the ones who have been given great graces. We have inherited God's precious and fruitful vineyard, which produces the rich graces of the Sacraments. We will be asked by God to give back the fruits of those graces He has given us. What will we have to show Him? Do we think of ourselves as owners of our own lives and all that God has given to us: our talents, our time, our wealth? Shouldn't we recognise that all we have has been given us on trust, and that we must render an account of all that we have done with God's gifts to us in this life. What can we do? One important consideration follows here —

FORTY HOURS OF GRACE!

From Tuesday to Thursday this week our annual Forty Hours' Festival of Prayer will take place before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Monstrance enthroned above the Altar. It is a wonderful blessing, (which we ought not to overlook), to be invited to spend time quietly adoring Our Lord — praying for the needs of the whole Church and the world, and for ourselves and our families.

The important, indeed the one *truly necessary* thing about the Forty Hours, is not the number of candles burned on the Sanctuary, nor the beauty of the flowers, but the number of persons who come into Christ's living presence throughout this time, who thereby increase the beauty of their souls and intercede for the Church and the world. Are we producing the fruits of God's many kindnesses and graces to us? Bearing in mind the teaching of the Gospel, how can we bear *not* to come and spend precious time in His presence during these priceless days? We only get one such chance in each year. Ask yourself this question: ***What if this Forty Hours were to be the last one of my life? Where would I want to have spent that precious time?***

LIFE LIVES ON

Many thanks to all who came to the "Cornerstone Fringe Meeting" on Abortion and the HFE Bill last Tuesday. The numbers impressed and encouraged the Pro-Life MPs and other politicians present. There was standing room only! We were reminded, of course, that these issues are not strictly party-political, and that there are friends and enemies of life in all the main political parties. It was both illuminating and worrying to hear from those present who have taken part in the recent debates and votes on these matters in the House of Commons that there is a great amount of intimidation conducted by Government whips and some other MPs to pressurise any who waver towards pro-life positions. When such heavy-handed treatment is meted out, it is not surprising that the votes went so badly against Life. But we can take heart from the revelation that the opponents of life seem frightened that they cannot win the argument. The Pro-Life MPs are convinced that despite their small numbers in the present Parliament, there is a gradual, yet perceptible, change in public attitudes to these moral matters. That is what frightens the enemies of life. Despite their power, their influence and the vast sums of money made available to them to fight against life, ***they know that they will lose in the end***.

Sunday October 5th: The Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 2

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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 |

TWENTY-SEVENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Monday and Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. October 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.

*Tuesday to Thursday: **PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR OUR PROGRAMME DURING FORTY HOURS***

Monday October 6th: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Bruno, Bishop. (White)
• October Devotions at 7.45 p.m.

St Bruno: (d. 1101) Born into nobility in Cologne, he was educated at Rheims, later becoming a professor of theology. He was drawn to an eremitical life and became a hermit at a desolate Alpine place, *La Grande Chartreuse*, thus the Carthusians were founded, the most austere of all the great monastic orders. Considering himself unworthy, he declined several requests to be a bishop until Pope Urban II, a former pupil, insisted on Bruno's appointment and asked him to Italy as his adviser. He never returned to France but founded a monastery near Rome.

Tuesday October 7th: Our Lady of the Rosary. Memoria. (White)

- **FORTY HOURS COMMENCES:**
- **OPENING SOLEMN MASS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT 8 P.M. (White)**
- **Watching in the Presenœ of the Blessed Sacrament till Midnight**

Wednesday October 8th: Feria. (Green)

- **Watching recommences at 8 a.m. and continues throughout the day.**
- **VOTIVE MASS FOR PEACE AT 8 P.M.**
- **All-night Vigil from 10 p.m.—6.30 a.m.**

Thursday October 9th: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of St Denis, Bishop, and his companions, Martyrs. (Red); or of St John Leonardi, Priest. (White)

- **Watching continues throughout the day.**
- **CLOSING SOLEMN MASS OF THE SACRED HEART, PROCESSION & BENEDICTION AT 8 P.M.**

St Denis & Companions (or Dionysius) was a priest in Paris and was martyred with several companions, around 258 A.D., in the part of Paris known as Montmartre or "Martyrs' Hill". A magnificent Abbey was built to honour him just outside Paris, whose church still stands.

St John Leonardi (d. 1609) An Italian priest, he gathered a group of laymen together to work in hospitals and prisons. In the face of determined opposition, he founded the "Order of the Mother of God" and in this was aided by St Philip Neri. He was known as a worker of miracles and is considered one of the founder members of the Propagation of the Faith. He died in Rome of plague contracted whilst tending other victims.

Friday October 10th: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Paulinus of York, Bishop. (White).

St Paulinus (d.643). Sent by Pope St Gregory as a missionary to England, he was consecrated Bishop of Kent (and later Bishop of Rochester) and soon converted the King of Kent and his son-in-law, the King of Northumbria from their example, Christianity spread quickly.

Saturday October 11th: Our Lady on Saturday. (White). Feria, (Green). Optional memoria of Bl William Howard, English Martyr. (Red)

- **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**
- **First Mass of Sunday: The Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

Bl William Howard (1616-80), Viscount Stafford. He was tried in the House of Lords for being part of the "Popish Plot" fabricated by Titus Oates to discredit Catholics and was condemned, despite exposing the lies of his accusers. He was beheaded on Tower Hill.

Sunday October 12th : The Twenty-eighth 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: Sr Anne of the Holy Spirit D.C., Donietta Boffa, Ingeborg Parkes, Kim Potter, Darius Butowski, Mary Houston, Mary Clarkson, Nora Thornton, David Reynolds, Carole Halls, Evelyn Arrigho, Marie-Therese Jones, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey and Frank McGuinness.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Mary Young, Paul Fitzgerald, Perry Demulay, George Donaghy and Peter Rush;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Ignatius Ryder and Fr Anthony Pollen, both of this Oratory, Charles Henry Nicholls, Alfred Mealand, Brian Moran, Maura Murphy, Mary & Paddy Moran, Thomas Mooney and Paul Quinn.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, October 11th/12th
 Twenty-eighth Sunday:**

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m. Eamon Grant
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections

Twenty-sixth Sunday, 28th September:
Offertory: £1,247
Second: Diocesan development Fund: £402
Thank you

TODAY

BR. LEWIS BERRY is to be instituted **Acolyte** at High Mass today. An acolyte is one who serves at the Altar assisting the priest, and is permitted in the case of special need to administer Holy Communion to the faithful. As is customary on the day of his institution as Acolyte, Br. Lewis will not only assist at the Altar at the High Mass but will administer Holy Communion. Br. Lewis will return to Rome soon for his final year of studies in preparation for ordination, first as a deacon, then ultimately as a priest. Please remember him in your prayers as he takes another step towards priesthood today.

The Second Collection today is for last Friday's Harvest Fast Day and will be sent to Aid to the Church in Need.

WORLDWIDE DAY OF PRAYER for peace and to uphold the sacredness of human life takes place today. **We hope that you will join us. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2-5 p.m. during which our Rosaries will contribute to the several million being said throughout the world.**

CANDLES FOR FORTY HOURS, which will take place from Tuesday, 7th—Thursday 9th, are on sale in the cloisters. Please also remember the Altar Society blue collection box (outside St Charles' chapel at the front of church) for your offerings to buy flowers to adorn the altar during this very special time in our calendar.

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall after Mass.

THIS WEEK

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS will be on Monday and Friday this week, at **7.45 p.m.**, consisting of Rosary and Benediction. Please note the starting time.

Our FORTY HOURS DEVOTION takes place this week. **Please see over the page and above for full details. The 'Watching' list for you to sign up for half hour slots is at the back of church and we ask that you will help us to fill every slot!**

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week due to Forty Hours.

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH will hold a Holy Hour during Forty Hours, from 3-4 p.m. on Wednesday at the front of church, near to the Lady Altar.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CARDINAL NEWMAN'S REMAINS. When the Cardinal's grave was opened on Thursday last, it was discovered that his body has returned entirely to the earth, and nothing was found in the ground except parts of the coffin and some clothing. There will be a Vigil Reception of these remains in the Upper Cloister Hall at the end of this month before being solemnly received into our church on Sunday, 2nd November, the transferred Feast of All Saints, at a special Mass at 11 a.m. to be celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Vincent Nichols. Due to availability of space, we regret that attendance at this Mass will be by ticket only. Forms to apply for a ticket can be found at the back of church today. Alternatively, they can be downloaded from Monday at www.newmancause.co.uk or can be requested by telephone at 455 6323. *(Please note not from the Oratory's number).*