

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.

July 6th 2008: THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



“COME TO ME, FOR I AM GENTLE”

Our Lord in today's passage from St. Matthew's Gospel offers rest to those who “labour and are overburdened”. Whatever our condition in life, we should hear these words as addressed to us. He tells us to shoulder His yoke and learn from Him, for “my yoke is easy and my burden light”. The gentleness and kindness of His invitation suggests the imagery of the Good Shepherd, familiar to us from St. John's Gospel. His yoke and burden are light only because He has carried them for us. We can interpret these as the yoke of obedience to God and the burden of suffering. When we are obedient to God's Will, when we accept any suffering in His Name, *so long as we do so in union with Christ*, we can then, *and only then*, find them “light” and “easy”.

THE YEAR OF SAINT PAUL

Today's second reading at Mass begins a series from the 8th chapter of his great Epistle (i.e. *Letter*) to the Romans that will take us through the next five Sundays. In this Chapter, one of the profoundest in all his writings, St. Paul deals with such topics as: The Holy Spirit—the true life of the Christian; The state of our being “children of God” brought about by the Spirit; Our heavenly destiny and the mysterious way in which even the natural world around us is somehow waiting for our glory to be revealed in Christ; And finally, Paul's wonderful exclamation of praise to God in Christ for allowing nothing in all creation to come between us and His love “*made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord*”.

As so often in St. Paul, he opens this chapter by putting before us a great contrast: in this case the total contrast between what he calls the *spiritual* and the *unspiritual*, of which we hear in today's extract. He explains that the foundation underlying this crucial difference is in the presence or absence of the Holy Spirit. Hence it is with the “spiritual” that our interests lie because, “*unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to Him*”. What does the Spirit do for us who possess Him? It is the Holy Spirit who gives life—that life which raised our Lord from the dead. The Holy Spirit therefore shares with us the life of Christ's resurrection. But there is a further point to this life—it is the opposite not just of death, but also of sin. If we are to live properly according to the life of the Spirit given to us at our baptism, then we must shun sin which only leads us back to the death from which we have been rescued by the Spirit. In this extract we begin to see clearly the connection between the Spirit and life on the one hand, and between sin and death on the other. Our bodies as well as our souls can live with a spiritual life just as Christ's body is spiritually enlivened in His resurrection from the dead. The daily life of the Christian requires us constantly to “*put an end to the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit, so that we may live*”. We learn here the importance of subduing our natural bodily appetites in order to set our bodies and souls free from slavery to those appetites: a slavery of sin which leads to bodily and spiritual death. The close co-operation between Christ and the Holy Spirit in the life of the redeemed is a sign to us of St. Paul's very real understanding of the Holy Trinity at work in us.

“DAY FOR LIFE”

This particular Sunday each year is set apart by the Bishops to pray for, and reflect on, issues of various kinds concerned with human Life. There is a leaflet at the church doors outlining this year's topic—life and mental health.

Some of you may have seen last Wednesday an item on the BBC local news concerning two of our Parishioners: Mrs. Ellen Westwood and her daughter Kathleen. Three months ago, when Mrs. Westwood was in hospital with an infection following surgery, the staff decided that she was dying and therefore withdrew all food and drink from her, while administering doses of morphine which left her in a stupor. Her daughter objected to this policy but was overruled. *She was even initially prevented from either herself providing food and drink to her mother, or even from taking her home*. Eventually Kathleen appealed to another of our parishioners, a Senior Consultant in another hospital, to come to their help. This, mercifully, brought about a sudden and complete reversal. Mrs. Westwood was allowed home where she is still alive and in good spirits if a little frail, being in her 80's. We congratulate Kathy Westwood on this success and wish her and her mother every blessing. There is a warning to us all in this—*don't let the medical staff become dictators over you and your loved ones in matters of life and death*. We recommend that everyone make a form of “living will” specifying that in case of illness or incapacity no medic should be permitted to take decisions to deprive you of food and drink, and naming someone as your attorney who will defend you against decisions which are proving ever more difficult to challenge, let alone overturn. Specimens of such a form of “living will” will be available at the Church doors after Mass next week.

Sunday July 6th: Fourteenth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year I or A of the Lectionary at Mass

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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 |

FOURTEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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 July 7th: FERIA. (Green).

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

Tuesday July 8th: FERIA. (Green)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction

Wednesday July 9th: FERIA. (Green) Optional memoria of **St Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions, Martyrs. (Red)**

St Augustine Zhao Rong & Comps: (17th—20th c). In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonised 120 'Chinese' martyrs, most of whom were born in China, though some were foreign missionaries. Today, we commemorate those men, women and children martyred from 1648-1930. St Augustine was one of them. He had served in the Chinese army before his conversion and priestly ordination. He then served as a diocesan priest before being arrested for his priesthood. He was cruelly tortured and martyred in 1815.

Thursday July 10th: FERIA. (Green)

Friday July 11th: St Benedict, Abbot. Patron of Europe. Feast. (White).

St Benedict (c.480– 530) Born into Italian nobility, he was drawn to live away from a world of pagan wars and lax morality and became a hermit, living in caves. As his reputation grew, many wished to imitate him in a life of seclusion and prayer and so he gathered them into communities, notably at Subiaco (where he lived most of his life) and at Montecassino (where he is buried). The rule of life he established was eventually adopted by most of the monastic houses and Orders of the Western Church, and remains today as the rule followed by most monks. As a result of the enormous influence of Benedictine monks in European history, both spiritually and as those who preserved ancient civilisation through the Dark Ages, Benedict was the first saint to be declared a "Patron of Europe".

Saturday July 12th: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or FERIA. (Green). St John Jones, Welsh Martyr.

- **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: Fourteenth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

St John Jones (d. 1598) Born in Gwynedd. He ministered at Marshalsea prison in London, caring for the prisoners until it was discovered that he was a priest. He was then imprisoned himself at Wisbech for three years, following which he left for Rome and joined the Franciscans. He returned as soon as he could and worked secretly for a further two years before he was imprisoned again, where "he did incalculable good." In 1598, after three years in prison, he was condemned for having, as a priest, returned to England and he was hanged, drawn and quartered at Southwark on July 12th 1598.

Sunday July 13th: The Fifteenth 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: Paddy Martin, Antonietta Boffa, Kathleen O'Grady, Vivian Beesley, Marie-Therese Jones, Darek Butowski, Peter Young, Patrick Martin, Evelyn Arrigho, Frank McGuinness, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea, Christina Margaret Millen and Nadine Tightnow.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Richard Fulham and Shareen Cartwright; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Kathleen McNamee, Ivor Worrall, Melinda Pulisciano, Mary Neylon, Horace Bolton and Angela Caddell.

The following are requested to read next weekend, July 12th/13th:
Fifteenth Sunday:

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

Collections

Sts Peter & Paul, 29th June:
Offertory: £1,482
Second: Peter's Pence: £502
Thank you

Second Collection today:

"Life Sunday" collection for the Linacre Centre (Catholic Institute for the study of Bioethics)

TODAY

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall. **THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES, HEDNESFORD** takes place today commencing with the Rosary at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m. followed by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and Blessing of the sick. For full details see the poster in the cloisters.

THE LATIN MASS SOCIETY is celebrating its annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Winefride at Holywell, North Wales, with a Solemn High Mass at 2.30 p.m. this afternoon. See the poster for details.

ECUMENICAL SONGS OF PRAISE takes place this evening at St. George's Anglican Church, Edgbaston, at 6.30 p.m.

THIS WEEK

The ALTAR SOCIETY meets this Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Oratory House

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on **Wednesday afternoon** commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. We thank you for your prayers of support in the Appeal for Planning Permission to be granted to allow us to keep our fence. The hearing has been adjourned until October 8th, which will be during the annual Festival of the 40 Hours; a wonderful opportunity for us all to pray for this intention

with greater fervour and intensity than ever! **Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will eventually be granted. Also please see the notice below.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY at Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire, takes place on Sunday 17th August, commencing with Mass at 3.00 p.m. Please see the poster on the Notice Board in the Cloisters, which gives full details.

GOBS PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 22-30 AUGUST 2008: There are some spaces left on the coach. The total cost is £395 full board including day trips. Details are available at the church doors.

WALSINGHAM: Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage, Sunday 7th September. Mass at 12 noon. See poster for details.

FATIMA: World Apostolate of Fatima Pilgrimage from 22-27 September 2008, flying from Birmingham to Lisbon, Portugal via *Bmibaby*, with a basic price of £ 300. Contact the Parish Secretary if you want a booking form.

NOTICES

REDNAL: If you would like to help our campaign to keep the fence, by taking some photographs and measurements of palisade fences around the city, please see Fr Guy for details.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"In a world in which lying is powerful, the price of truth is suffering." (Pope Benedict XVI)