

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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June 27th 2010: THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NO ONE WHO TURNS BACK IS FIT FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

Do you ever mow a lawn? While I suspect that not many of us has ever driven a plough, a lawn mower is more likely to be familiar. So when Our Lord says to us today: "Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who turns back is fit for God's kingdom", we can understand what he means in the light of our experience of mowing the lawn. If you don't keep your eyes straight ahead on what you are doing, you will lose your straight line very fast, with dire effects on the appearance of your work! However, while the effect of not looking ahead when ploughing is the same, the result is more serious, since it is not just the "look" of the ploughing which matters, but what is happening to the ground, and where the seed will go. Our Lord is warning us not to take lightly our commitment to Him. We have not chosen Him, for He has chosen us, as He told the Apostles. But that does not mean we are simply passive, not having to do anything in response to His call. We must be *active* in our discipleship.

We mustn't close our eyes to the dangers that face us: for instance, dangers to human Life itself, and to standards of morality in the Media or in public life. If only we can become more active within our society, we could still have an incalculable influence for good. Don't be put off by those who complain about "imposing our morality on others". All such people are only too happy to impose theirs on all of us. Euthanasia is one such area. You cannot be neutral about killing the aged and infirm. You either agree with it or not. Therefore you should either support its imposition on us all or else resist it. Similarly, you cannot be neutral about sex education which tacitly encourages under-age sex by saying that it is "inevitable". Nor can you be neutral about legislation which raises same-sex partnerships to the equivalent of marriage between a man and a woman., while deliberately ignoring many situations where people live together for love and support not based on a sexual relationship, such as elderly brothers and sisters or an elderly parent with grown-up son or daughter.

Saints Peter and Paul



Tuesday is the Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul, Princes (i.e. "Leaders") of the Apostles, and it is a Holyday of Obligation. These two men were chosen by Christ at different times: Peter the Fisherman at Lake Galilee early in Our Lord's ministry, and Paul the Pharisee outside the gates of Damascus. Yet they were not content simply to be "chosen". Both worked actively, energetically for Him and His Holy Church. Both died a martyr's death in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Nero in 67 A.D. for over two hundred years our Christian ancestors secretly guarded and venerated their tombs until, when Constantine became Emperor of Rome in 312 A.D., two magnificent shrines were built over their tombs, the forerunners of the great Basilicas of St Peter and Paul in modern-day Rome

THE POPE'S VISIT

Most of you will have heard that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, will come to the Oratory on 19th September, straight after the beatification, to visit Cardinal Newman's room. He will also be the first pilgrim to pray in the new shrine that will be in St Philip's Chapel. This is a tremendous honour, not only for Cardinal Newman, but also for our parish and community. For obvious reasons the visit will be very short and it will be completely private.

Fr Richard will be speaking to the parish about this after all Masses on Sunday. He will be looking for donations to set up Blessed John Henry Newman's shrine and to fund the redecoration of St Philip's Chapel, making it ready to receive the relics of Blessed John Henry and to welcome the Holy Father. Fr Richard will also be looking to recruit a team of volunteers to help us keep the church and shrine open to visitors after the beatification. There will be a second collection for this in the coming weeks, but donations and offers of voluntary help may be made at anytime to Fr Richard by writing to him at the Oratory House or by emailing him rd@oxorat.org

Sunday June 27th: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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| • 8.30 a.m. <i>Low Mass</i> | • 12.00 p.m. <i>(Families with young children)</i> |
| • 9.30 a.m. <i>Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal</i> | • 5.30 p.m. <i>Sung Congregational Mass</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Solemn Vespers and Benediction</i> |

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 1 in the Divine Office
Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary 7.45 p.m.
Holy Hour: Each Weekday from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Benediction on Tuesday at 8 p.m.
Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass.

Monday 28th June: St Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr. Memoria. (Red); or St John Southworth, English Martyr. (Red)

***Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m. *Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m.**

***The Mass at 5.45 p.m. is the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul**

St Irenaeus (c.130-202) Bishop of Lyons, he was one of the first great writers of the Church, his principal work was a treatise on Gnosticism, certain heresies teaching that knowledge, not grace saves us.

St John Southworth (Martyred Tyburn 1654): A Lancastrian, he became a priest at Douay but was soon arrested after his return to England in 1619. Queen Henrietta Maria secured his release and he was banished but returned secretly, working for some years, particularly with plague victims and the poor. Under Cromwell's regime he was rearrested and refusing to deny his priesthood, he was hanged, drawn and quartered.

Tuesday 29th June: Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles. (Red)

HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

***Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

***Masses at 7.30, 9.30 (OPS in Church), 12.45 p.m., 5.45 p.m., 8 p.m. (High)**

Wednesday 30th June: Feria. (Green). Optional Memoria of First Martyrs of the See of Rome. (Red)

***Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

First Martyrs of the See of Rome: We commemorate the holy men and women who were disciples of the Apostles and who were martyred by Nero, who accused them of burning Rome to divert suspicion from his own crimes.

Thursday 1st July: Feria. (Green). Optional Memoria of St Oliver Plunkett, Bishop & Martyr. (Red)

***Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St Oliver Plunkett (1625-81) Born in County Meath, he became a priest in Rome and taught there until appointed Bishop of Armagh in 1670. His determination to reform lax behaviour and censure of priests and religious living scandalous lives led to some taking advantage of the Titus Oates plot to incriminate him with the secular authorities. He was arrested and taken to London, but like so many of the martyrs of this era, his trial was a travesty and he was refused time to call witnesses who would have been able to attest to his innocence. He was the last Catholic to die for the Faith at Tyburn.

Friday 2nd July: Feria. (Green)

***Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

Saturday 3rd July: St Thomas, Apostle. Feast. (Red)

- **Low Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **Latin Mass 1962 Missal at 9.30 a.m. in St Philip's Chapel**
- **Low Mass at 11 a.m.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Thomas His scepticism vanished at the sight of Our Lord's wounds. After Pentecost, he travelled to Asia Minor and was martyred at Goa. He is the Patron of India and Pakistan.

July 4th: the Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time: (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 in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick John Rose, Teresa Wills, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Barbara Jarvis, Kathleen Sugr , Kevan Bleach, Maurice Hynes, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, David Pritchard, Carolyn Knight, and Tony Farmer.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Patricia Foster;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Thomas Pope and Fr Joseph Bacchus, both of this Oratory, Ivor Worrall, Cecilia Brunt, Peter Brunt, Michael Young, Maurice O'Brien, Stephen Andrews, Margaret Thirlaway, Molly Dawson and Ellie O'Moore.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, July 3rd/4th 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 5.45 p.m: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

12th Sunday of the Year: 13th June, 2010
Offertory: £1,459

Second: Beatification: £545

Thank you

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION will be for the Beatification

There will be a RETIRING COLLECTION on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED will be hosting an event in the Upper Cloister Hall today. **"The Light of The World"** will be an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the challenges facing Christians around the world. Talks begin at 2 p.m. The main guest speaker will be Fr Samir Kahil Samir SJ who will speak on Christianity and Islam in the Middle East. The event is free and spaces are available.

THE PIETY STALL: ON SALE TODAY EXCLUSIVELY HERE IN THE UK is the acclaimed DVD about Fatima **"The 13th Day"**. The film has been described as **"The Best Film Ever Made About Fatima"** and is a remarkable retelling of the story.

THIS WEEK

There will be A HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning until further notice to pray for the success of Cardinal Newman's beatification and the Pope's visit.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will not take place this week.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS (aged 20-35) meet on Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. Dancho Azagra of Opus Dei will give a talk on "Sanctifying our Daily Work".

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH will meet on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House. A guest speaker, Mrs Pamela Moon, will give a talk on the Turin Shroud. Refreshments will be provided. *All are welcome.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A DAY WITH MARY: will be held here on Saturday 17th July commencing

at 10 a.m. It is a day of instruction, devotion and intercession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. The day will include a procession and crowning of Our Lady's statue; Exposition; Rosaries; Act of Consecration; enrolment in the Brown Scapular; Mass; Confession; Benediction.

THE BEATIFICATION OF CARDINAL NEWMAN will be on Sunday 19th September and it is essential that you book on a coach in order to gain access to the Beatification site. Travel to and from the site will be £15. Coaches will leave from and return *not* to the Oratory as previously stated, but at certain pick-up points around Birmingham. Full details will be given in due course. Forms are to be found at the back of church and completed forms must be returned to the Oratory in an envelope marked **"Beatification"**. Please do *not* send to Pax Travel.

NOTICES

TIMETABLE CHANGES: The Fathers are thinking of making some changes to the timetable of services at the Oratory and would like to hear your views before we come to any decisions. We are not considering any changes to regular Mass times on Weekdays or Sundays. Most of the changes we would like to implement concern Devotions and Holy Day service times. At the moment these tend to take place at 8 pm, which we think is rather late, especially in the winter. We would like to propose having Devotions (like Tuesday Benediction or St Philip's Relic) after the 5.45 pm Mass (e.g. at 6.15 pm). On Holy Days of Obligation and some other days of devotion we would like to have the High Mass at 7.00 pm. On Sundays, and Holy Days that have First Vespers, we would also like to have Vespers at 6.30 pm. If you have any thoughts about these proposals, or any suggestions of your own, please write to Fr Richard at the Oratory House or email him rd@oxorat.org

APF RED BOX HOLDERS are asked to co-operate with your collectors in exchanging your red boxes, as the quarter has just ended. We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and generosity to the Missionary work of the Church throughout the world.