

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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October 17th 2010: THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DON'T GIVE UP PRAYING



Our Lord gives a very graphic image of persistence in prayer in the Gospel today: He talks about a woman with a claim against her neighbour who nags and hectors away until she gets what she wants from an unjust judge who is looking for an easy life.

Of course, Our Lord is not saying that this is how things *should* be. He is using this image to show that if we can get things we are entitled to by sheer perseverance, and from an unjust judge—how much more can we hope to get what we need from a loving and just Father, God our Lord?

However, Our Lord wants us to understand that, even though God is just, and loves us so much that He *wants* to give us what is necessary for our good, nevertheless, we too, like the woman in His image, must expect to be persistent in making our prayers to Him even for what is good.

Why should this be? God our Father and His Son, Our Lord, want us to pray not just to get what we want from them *but because praying itself is a good thing*. Unlike the case of the woman and the unjust judge, where the pestering is only the means to the end she wants, prayer is totally unlike that. Prayer is the expression and the means of deepening a right relationship with Our Lord, and with our heavenly Father.

In his Letter to the Ephesians (ch. 6), St. Paul tells us that we should pray at all times. This is exactly what Our Lord means us to learn from this Gospel passage. Blessed John Henry Newman also taught about the importance of continuous prayer. He pointed out that prayer is like good health—you cannot be in it one moment and not in it the next. Health is a state of being. One can fall out of it, true, but one cannot *fall into* good health. Health is something that needs fostering and protection. It should never be taken for granted. A religious person, says Blessed John Henry, is one who prays, and prays constantly. Simply praying when we need something is not sufficient. We must pray at all times and not only for the things that we need, but to God's glory and for the needs of all the Church and those who ask for our prayerful support.

Today's picture comes not from the Gospel, but from the First Reading. It is an example of the importance—and the difficulty—of praying constantly. Moses knew that he must keep praying if the Israelites were to defeat their enemies and so move a step closer to the Promised Land. In praying he extended his arms, much as the priest does so often during Mass. Of course, he grew tired and his arms dropped to his side. Yet whenever he did this, the Israelites lost ground. In order to avoid this, Moses got his two closest co-workers, his brother Aaron, and his friend Hur, to stay at his sides and hold each of his arms when he grew tired, so that the Israelites could continue to benefit from his prayers for them. We should see our own prayer in the same light. We must pray constantly not only for our own needs but for the needs of all who ask us to pray. We are supporting them by our prayers just as Aaron and Hur supported Moses.

Sunday October 17th: The Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

- 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 English Mass*
- 6.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

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 after the 12.45 & 5.45 p.m. Masses.

Holy Hour: Each morning from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. October devotions at c. 6.05 p.m.

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

(For Saturday and Sunday: see over)

Monday 18th October: St Luke Apostle & Evangelist. Feast. (Red)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**

St Luke (1st cent.) was the only one of the writers of the Scriptures who we know was a Gentile, ie a non-Jew. He was a Greek physician and a follower of St Paul. He wrote the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, which tells of the early growth of the Church and preaching of the Gospel throughout the Roman world after Pentecost.

Tuesday 19th October: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of Sts John de Breboeuf, Isaac Jogues and Companions Martyrs; or of St Paul of the Cross Priest. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Sts John de Breboeuf (d. 1649) & **St Isaac Jogues** (d. 1646) were French Jesuit missionaries in Canada who worked for several years with great success amongst the Huron Indians, having converted over 7,000. But they were eventually captured by the Iroquois, enemies of the Hurons, and cruelly tortured before being killed.

St Paul of the Cross (d. 1775) was the founder of the Passionist Congregation, which Blessed Dominic Barberi was eventually to join.

Wednesday 20th October: Feria. (Green).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**

Thursday 21st October: Feria. (Green).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**

Friday 22nd October: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Rosary after 12.45 Mass**
- **October Devotions (incl the Rosary) at 6.15 p.m.**

Saturday 23rd October: Our Lady on Saturday (White); or Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St. John of Capistrano. Priest. (White)

- **Low Masses: at 8 a.m., and in Latin (EF) at 9.30 a.m. in the Shrine.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—concluding with Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Pilgrim Mass at 11 a.m. followed by prayers in Bl John Henry's Shrine.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday of the Year) at 5.30 p.m.**

St John of Capistrano (d.1456) joined the Franciscans at Perugia where St Bernadine of Siena inspired him to foster devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He travelled throughout Europe and reformed the Observant Franciscans and the Poor Clares. When Sultan Mohammed II, who had earlier conquered Constantinople, threatened Vienna and Rome, he influenced the Christian powers to resist the invading Turks.

October 24th: the Thirtieth Sunday of the Year: (Green)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Low Latin Mass (1962 missal)**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass**
- **12.00 noon Family Mass**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational English Mass**
- **6.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction (please note new time)**

Please pray for the sick Jacqueline Griffiths, James Foynes, Mario Imbimbo, Rita Waltho, Janet Spanswick, Patrick Turner, Jimmy Cunningham, Brenda Molloy, Nick Usher-Somers, Miles Drew, Ann Williamson, Jacqueline Griffiths, Harold Johnson, Carolyn Knight, Tony Colquoun, Thelma Havelin, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Barbara Jarvis.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Beverley Newman

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr John Norris of this Oratory, Father Volan Evans, Josephine McMillan, Carl McCarthy and Theresa McNamara.

Josephine Spooner's funeral is on Tuesday at 11 a.m.
Reception of remains: Monday at 5 p.m.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, October 23rd/24th The Thirtieth Sunday

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

Collections last week:

The Twenty-eighth Sunday:
10th October, 2010

Offertory: £1,661
Second Collection: Bl. John Henry's Shrine: £568
Organ (for shrine) Fund £520

Many thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION will be for Blessed John Henry Newman's Shrine. **THE PIETY STALL is now open on Saturdays, and after Sunday morning Masses and on Sunday afternoons. Medals, rosaries and other commemorative items of the beatification of Blessed John Henry Newman are on sale, together with books about him, and of his own writings.**

THIS WEEK

There will be a HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each day this week, and Adoration from 8.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. on Saturday.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY : Please remember that you can obtain a PLENARY INDULGENCE (under usual conditions) each day in October by praying five decades of the Rosary in Church (see 'October Devotions' below) , or as a family or in a special group, or even a Partial Indulgence by praying fewer than five decades or by praying the Rosary on your own.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS continue each weekday evening IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 5.45 p.m.. Mass, at c. 6.15 p.m. They consist of the Rosary, a short meditation and Benediction. Note the new time of evening devotions and please do your best to attend!

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

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

The FRIENDS OF CARDINAL NEWMAN AGM takes place on Tuesday at 7.15 p.m. (for 7.30) in the Lower Cloister Hall.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY is next Sunday and the 2nd collection will be for the APF (the Association for the Propagation of the Faith). The APF provides funding for schools, seminaries and missionaries around the world. Most of

you will be familiar with the 'Red Boxes' for collecting money at home or your place of work etc. Next week, there will be the opportunity to sign up for a box so that you can become a contributor to this important work of the Church.

The HALF MARATHON taking place next Sunday will mean that Hagley Road will be closed for a while in the morning from Highfield Road to Five Ways, as will Highfield Road. **However, Hagley Road in front of the Oratory, Monument Road, Plough & Harrow Road and Ladywood Mileway will be open** so it should be possible for all of you to get to Mass as usual!

The acclaimed film about Our Lady at Fatima, THE 13TH DAY will be shown in the Upper Cloister Hall on Wednesday 27th at 8 p.m. The film's producer will give a short introduction and Fr Guy will give a short address on the importance of the Fatima message.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS (21-35) next meet at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 4th November, in the Oratory House. Fr Tim Finigan will give a talk on "Christian Freedom and Conscience"

NOTICES

BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN'S SHRINE: We are trying to raise £18,000 for the new organ in the chapel, better suited to the purpose of enhancing worship there. Thank you to all those who have contributed so far or have offered help with a short-term interest-free loan. Additional donations will be very gratefully received! So far we have raised £4,120, not counting loans.

OPENING TIMES OF THE SHRINE: Please note that the shrine is open when the church is open. On Saturdays and Sundays, this will be all day. During the week, at present, the church will be open at usual times. (Generally, half to three-quarters of an hour before and after services.)