

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School: web.oratory.bham.sch.uk

*This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.*



## March 30th 2008: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



### Jesus, I trust in You!

On this Sunday, the Octave (8th) Day of Easter, the Gospel directs us to three important facts. First, since our Lord rose from the dead on a Sunday and appeared to His Apostles both on that Sunday and again on the following Sunday, He Himself has consecrated Sunday above all other days as the Christian Holy Day of the week and as the “day of meeting” between Himself and His followers. Secondly, Our Lord on the first Easter Day breathes the Holy Spirit into His Apostles. This is not the same outpouring as that still to come at Pentecost, which will be upon all Christian souls, but here it is specifically upon the souls of Christ’s ministers for the forgiveness of the sins of others. Thirdly, Our Lord calls upon St. Thomas to turn away from doubt and unbelief, and to put his faith and trust in Him.

Trust, belief and faith are closely connected. Our Lord deliberately did not reveal Himself to the whole world, but only to those whom He had chosen to be His followers. He allowed St. Thomas to be absent at the time of His first appearance to the Apostles so that Thomas’s doubting, so trenchantly expressed, should encourage the faith of countless Christians down the ages to come: “*Unless I can put my finger into the wounds...*” As

Our Lord said to him: “*Thomas, you believe because you have seen me; blessed are those who have not seen and still believe!*” To believe in Our Lord risen from the dead is to trust in Him. It is to believe not only *that* He rose again, but *why* He needed to die and then to rise from the dead. “*in the body He was put to death; in the spirit He was raised to life*”, St. Paul teaches us. Not that this implies that Our Lord was *not* raised bodily—no!—His risen state is truly *bodily*—that is why Thomas can be invited to put his fingers and hand into the wounds. But that His risen body transcends the ordinary limits of our bodily state—being confined to one place and time.

Our Lord invites us all to trust in Him on this Feast of Divine Mercy because His death and resurrection have brought about new life for all who believe in Him; we are no longer confined to the selfishness of sin. We are now invited to “*be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful*”. For God the Father is, as St. Paul says to the Ephesians “*rich in mercy*”, and we can rejoice that this mercy obliterates our sins. On this Sunday, the anniversary of the second Sunday of the Christian era, we are invited by Our Lord Himself, through His servant St. Faustina, to trust in Him. In order to receive the incomparable gift of God’s mercy in Christ, we too must show that mercy to others. Today let us take advantage of this wonderful gift of mercy!

During Paschaltide, instead of the Angelus, we pray Our Lady’s Easter Antiphon:

### REGINA CAELI

*Regina Caeli, laetare, Alleluia!  
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!  
Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!*

*Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!  
He whom you were fit to bear, Alleluia!  
As He promised has arisen, Alleluia!  
Pour for us to God your prayer, Alleluia!*

*Then:  
Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia  
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

*Let us pray: O God, who have graciously given joy to the world in the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; grant, we pray, that through His mother the Virgin Mary, we may attain to the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Sunday March 30th: Divine Mercy Sunday (White)

*Year 1 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        |
| • 10.15 a.m. Solemn High Mass              | • 7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction  |

### SECOND WEEK OF EASTER: 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 March 31st: SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION** (White)

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

**Tuesday April 1st: Tuesday of Easter Week 2.** (White)

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

**Wednesday April 2nd: Wednesday of Easter Week 2.** (White) *Optional memoria of St Francis of Paola.* (White)

**St Francis of Paola:** He was educated by the Franciscans at Paola, and became a hermit. In 1436, he and two companions began a community that is considered the foundation of the Minim Friars. He built a monastery where they had led their eremitical life and he introduced a Rule for his followers emphasizing the monastic vows of penance, charity, and humility. But he also added one of fasting and abstinence. He also wrote a rule for tertiaries and nuns. He was credited with many miracles and had the gifts of prophecy and insight into men's hearts. The Order was approved by Pope Sixtus IV in 1474 with the name Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi (changed to Minim Friars in 1492).

**Thursday April 3rd: Thursday of Easter Week 2.** (White)

**Friday April 4th: Friday of Easter Week 2.** (White) *Optional memoria of St Isidore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church.* (White)

**St Isidore:** (d.636) As Archbishop of Seville for 36 years, he did a great deal to promote education, insisting that all forms were taught in seminaries. He wrote an encyclopaedia and when the Arabs brought back the study of Aristotle to Europe, it was nothing new in Spain since Isidore had already reintroduced studies of the philosopher. He did much to help convert the Visigoths from Arianism to Christianity. He was a man of great charity, always looking after those in poverty. As he was dying, he gave all his remaining possessions to the poor who had crowded into his house.

**Saturday April 5th: Saturday of Easter Week 2.** (White) *Optional memoria of St Vincent Ferrer, Priest.* (White)

- **Mass 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 Third Sunday of Easter at 5.45 p.m.**

**St Vincent Ferrer** (1357-1419) He was a Spanish Dominican, the son of an Englishman. A gifted philosopher and preacher, he evangelised nearly every province of Spain, and preached all over Europe and the British Isles converting many, which God Himself assisted by the gift of miracles. He worked for an end to the Avignon schism in the Church. He is the patron saint of builders because of his reputation for strengthening the Church through his preaching, missionary work, and as confessor and adviser.

**Sunday April 6th: The Second Sunday of Easter** (White)

**Mass & Service Times:**

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin 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 in English**
- **Vespers and Benediction: 7.30 p.m.**

**Please pray for the sick:** Ken White, Teresa Lee, Desmond Williams, Margaret Ginelly, Lorna O'Shea, Danna Slyzyk, Jon Jarvis, Vivian Beesley, Wyn Xenaky, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Patrick Hurley, Dorothy Price, Ellen Westwood, Sandra McCann and Margaret Casey. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Fr Alberto Venturoli of the Oratory, and Bridget Genockey; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Helen Winterton, Greta Baker, Marie Mealand, Neil O'Driscoll, Margaret Madden and Timothy Winterton.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, April 5th/6th: Second Sunday of Easter**

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan

Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin

12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood

5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

**Readers required for Saturday & Sunday evening Masses. Please post your name & contact details, in writing, to the Oratory House.**

#### Collections

Easter Day, 23rd March:

Offertory: £1,559

Second: Easter Offering for the Clergy: £3,646

Very many thanks

**The Second Collection today is for the DDF**

#### TODAY

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AFTERNOON:** will be observed here by an afternoon of prayer, commencing at 2.30 p.m. with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There will also be the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Rosary and Benediction. Mass will be at 4.30 p.m. *Confessions will be heard throughout the afternoon from 2 p.m. A Plenary Indulgence is attached to this Devotion, under the usual conditions.* If you have friends or family members, who have lapsed or who perhaps, have difficulty going to confession, please try to encourage them to take advantage of the great Graces which Our Lord wants to bestow on us all.

**NEW 'WALK WITH ME':** The Archbishop has produced a booklet to guide prayer life from Easter to Pentecost. Available by the back door of the church: cost £1. There is also a calendar for children: cost 30p.

**The PIETY STALL** is open in the Lower Cloister Hall with a large selection of books, including for children, gifts for occasions of baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, rosaries, DVDs, CDs, statues etc.

#### THIS WEEK

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession around the grounds.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Members, active or auxiliary, are invited to the ACIES at St Teresa's, Perry Barr on Monday at 7 p.m. Rosary, Mass, renewal of vows. Refreshments available afterwards.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH** meets in the Oratory House on Saturday, 5th April at 10.15 a.m. *All are welcome.*

**EX CATHEDRA** is performing Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday April 5th in Symphony Hall. For tickets telephone 0121 780 3333

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** next meet on Tuesday 8th April

12-2 p.m. to discuss Joanna Bogle's visit & book 'A Yearbook of Seasons & Feasts'. (Back in stock on the Piety Stall) All women welcome. Contact 688-4154 rosary@blueyonder.co.uk

**HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CORDES**, President of the Pontifical Council, *Cor Unum*, will be giving a lecture on the Pope's encyclical "Deus Caritas Est" God is Love, at Maryvale, Old Oscott Hill on Tuesday, 8th April at 2.30 p.m. *Please reserve seats in advance by telephoning 0121 360 8118 or e-mail: enquiries@maryvale.ac.uk*

#### NOTICES

**GIFT AID: 1.** To those of you who already donate to us by this method, we are very grateful indeed since the tax we can reclaim is of great help. However, from April 6th, the start of the new tax year, our income from this source will be reduced by 11% due to changes in tax rates. **Therefore, if you are able to increase your current donations, it would be very much appreciated.** **2.** To those of you who are tax payers (at the basic or higher rate) and who do not yet donate your amount to the collections by this method, may we appeal to you to do so? It costs you no more (and in the case of higher rate tax payers, there is a benefit to you too). **Gift Aid forms are to be found at the back door of the church.**

**SOME RULES FOR REVERENTLY RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION IN THE HAND:** 1) Never attempt to take the Host with your own fingers from the priest's hand, but allow him to place it gently and reverently on your open palm, then immediately place the Host directly in your mouth. 2) Do not wear gloves! 3) Never leave the Altar Rail with the Host in your hand, or stand up as you are putting it into your mouth. 4) Always check your hands after you have placed the Sacred Host in your mouth., lest any fragments be lost or dishonoured.

**Finally, please consider that, for children in particular, receiving on the tongue is preferable, that thereby they may better learn reverence.**