

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.

July 26th 2009: THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



THE BREAD OF LIFE

Beginning today and for the following four Sundays we interrupt the weekly series of readings from St. Mark's Gospel to hear the entire 6th chapter of St. John's Gospel. This begins with today's passage recounting the miraculous feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fish. The chapter will continue with Our Lord's teaching about Himself as the "Bread of Life" which prepares the way for His eventual institution of the Sacrament of His Body and Blood at the Last Supper.

It is hardly necessary to say so, but it is worth stressing at the outset that this is truly a miracle that Our Lord works. The Creator of the universe surely has no difficulty in making a little bread extend to feed five thousand or more persons. After all, the existence of the universe, not to mention life itself, is a great miracle. Christ is the Creator made man. It is therefore ridiculous to suggest (as some

people occasionally still do) that the "miracle" was simply that when the little boy generously produced his picnic of five barley loaves and two fish to share with the Apostles, then everybody else suddenly decided to get out their own picnics which they had been keeping hidden, and were able to overcome their selfishness and fear of not having enough and were able to share everything among themselves. No. Our Lord must have done exactly what all four Evangelists tell us happened.

So at the end of today's reading notice how the people, realising what our Lord had done miraculously for them, enthusiastically recognised that He "really is the Prophet who was to come into the world!", meaning the great Messiah foretold by the Prophets and longed-for by the people. So it was that in their excitement they were minded to take Him by force and make Him their King. Our Lord's reaction was to escape in order to be by Himself. Our Lord wanted to teach them that what He had just done for them was not intended to impress them with His miraculous powers, but rather to show them that He is the One who satisfies all hunger. It had been His riposte to the devil who tried to tempt Him to turn stones into bread when He was hungry after His 40-day fast in the wilderness that "Man does not live by bread alone". He therefore would not allow the people to believe that all He could do for them was simply to feed them miraculously with bread. Nor did He want them to believe that to have such food so easily provided was all-important. He had a greater bread, and a more satisfying food, all prepared for them—only they would need to learn about it and have faith in Him. Having seen what He could do with five loaves and two fish, why should they *not* have faith in Him? We will see over the next few weeks the unfolding drama of Our Lord's "Bread of Life" discourse in which He explains what today's miracle really means, and what food it is that we really need from Him, which He was soon to give us in Holy Communion.

"CHARITY IN TRUTH"

The Pope's new Encyclical Letter, his third, and the first he has written on social issues, is now out. Entitled "Charity in Truth", it is a most important discussion of Catholic social teaching.

Following the recent financial crisis, the Pope proposes the Church's especial understanding of the "Common Good" of human society. He tackles the problems of the "globalised world", encouraging us all to imbue global trends with respect for life and the "civilisation of love". In other words, however one looks at economic development, both locally and globally, there must always also be fraternal charity. Respect for the environment, realised by many people to be of great importance, must not be divorced from respect for the "ecology of mankind". What the Pope means by this is that to say that humanity is a single family must be founded on, and result in, care for all families, since the greatest poverty for any person is to be isolated from his or her fellow human beings. Finally, the Pope looks at technological advances and points out the danger of paying too much attention to "how" things can be done, rather than to "why" they should or should not be done.

Sunday July 26th: Seventeenth Sunday (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>Solemn High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Solemn Vespers and Benediction</i> |

SEVENTEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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

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

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Tuesday. Exposition on Saturday: 8.30–10.45 a.m.

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

Monday 27th July: Feria. (Green) *Optional memoria of Bl Robert Sutton, Priest & Martyr.* (Red)

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

Bl Robert Sutton (d. 1588) An Anglican vicar at Lutterworth, he was converted by his brother and before fleeing to France, he courageously apologised in a sermon to his congregation for having led them into error telling them that there was no salvation outside the Roman Church. He was ordained at Douay and worked in Staffordshire for nine years before being captured. His martyrdom was particularly horrible due to a bungling executioner.

Tuesday 28th July: Feria. (Green)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 29th July: St Martha. Memoria. (White)

St Martha (1st century) In addition to the story when Our Lord reminded Martha that listening to him is the only one thing that is really important, the Gospels tell us that Our Lord was a regular visitor to the house of Martha and her sister Mary (of Bethany) and their brother Lazarus. When Our Lord came to visit the sisters after Lazarus' death, it was to Martha that he declared "I am the Resurrection and the Life" and she declared great faith in him as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Thursday 30th July: Feria. (Green). *Optional memoria of St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor of the Church.* (White)

St Peter Chrysologus (400-50) Born and educated at Imola, Italy, Pope Sixtus III consecrated him as Bishop of Ravenna in c. 433. He quelled the growth of paganism and other heresies and abuses which had sprung in his diocese and his exceptional ability as a preacher earned him the name "Chrysologus" meaning "golden worded". He was made a Doctor of the Church largely because of his legacy of simple, practical, and clear sermons dealing with Gospel subjects.

Friday 31st July: St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest. (White)

St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1787) A Basque nobleman and soldier, he was converted to a spiritual life during a period of convalescence after being wounded in battle. He became a priest in Paris, and with some friends, founded the Society of Jesus (*Jesuits*), taking a special vow of obedience to the Pope in the service of the Church.

Saturday August 1st: St Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

- **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 & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Alphonsus (1696-1787) As a young man, he was a Brother of the Little Oratory in Naples. A renowned preacher and moral theologian, he founded the *Redemptorists* whose mission was especially to minister in country areas where there were few priests. He was a noted confessor encouraging regular confession and said that the priest should be "a lion in the pulpit and a lamb in the confessional".

August 2nd: Eighteenth 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. Latin High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **5.30 p.m. Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick David Pritchard, Michael Drew, William O'Leary, Connie Hayward, Patrick Walsh, Pat Healey, John Rose, Carole Halls, Celia Fernandez, Michael McCann and Sr Francis Clare.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Canon Francis Grady, Jim Ryan and Josephine Brown;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Philip Beesley, Miriam & Patrick Madigan, Guiseppe Gaida, Dennis Devere, Kenneth West and Kathleen Jenkins.

James Ryan's funeral service is on Friday at 11.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, August 1st/2nd, The Eighteenth Sunday of the Year:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: David Doran
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

Sixteenth Sunday: 19th July, 2009

Offertory: £1,549

Second: Sacred Heart Missionaries: £1,203

Many thanks

TODAY

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF)

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, including the Saturday evening Mass. On sale is Pope Benedict's first social Encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* ("Charity in Truth") in which he responds in full, in an easily readable way and with great clarity, to the many pressing concerns of today's world.

HOLDERS OF RED BOXES: It would be much appreciated if you would you collect your replacement boxes from the back of church.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will not take place during the remainder of the month of July.

AWARENESS RAISING DAY ABOUT DEMENTIA, organised by Father Hudson's Society, will take place on Saturday 1st August at St Joseph's Care Home in Coleshill. It is aimed primarily at those who are caring for a family member with dementia. The day will be free of charge and lunch will be provided. To book a place, or for more details, please contact Sally Scattergood at St Joseph's on 01675 434000 or at stjosephs2@fatherhudsons.org.uk

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH meets on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House. All are welcome.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP (for ages 20-35) next meeting is on Thursday, 6th August at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. There will be a discussion on "Heaven and Hell: Who's up and who's down?" New members welcome. Please phone Richard Winstanley for further details: 07905 601 721.

118TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARDINAL NEWMAN'S DEATH:

(1) **Sunday, 9th August: Prayers at the graveside** at the Oratory House, Leach Green Lane, Rednal will take place at 3 p.m. (Grounds will open at 2.15 p.m.)

(2) **Tuesday, 11th August:** There will be a Concelebrated Mass (in English) here at 7.30 p.m.

VISITS OF ST THERÈSE'S RELICS: The relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux will be visiting the diocese during September and October. On 19th September, they will arrive at St Chad's Cathedral at 2 p.m. There will be a Mass with Anointing of the Sick at 4.30 p.m., Benediction at 7.30 p.m. and all-night Vigil commencing at 9 p.m. They will remain in the Cathedral throughout Sunday 20th and will leave after a Farewell Mass at 6.30 a.m. on Monday 21st. More details of the weekend's events will be shown in due course. The relics will also be visiting The Sacred Heart and St. Therese, Coleshill, on the 21st and 22nd September, and the Oxford Oratory from Wednesday 7th October until the afternoon of Thursday 8th October. Arrangements at these venues will be notified nearer the time.

NOTICES

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA: there are still some spaces on this Pilgrimage, which Fr Guy is joining. Sun 6th – Saturday 12th September: Forms need to be completed as soon as possible and are to be found at the doors of the church, or from Stephanie in the Lower Cloister Hall after Masses on Sunday.

VACANCIES — Oratory Primary School

Required for September 09: Two classroom Assistants (Level 2/ Level 3). Further details available on request.

Visits to the school are most welcome.

Call 454 0600 and ask for Mrs C. Dickinson