

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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August 15th 2010: THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

OUR LADY'S GREATEST FEAST

Today is the greatest of Our Lady's feast days, and the only one which can take the place of a Sunday Mass, as it does today. Yet, as many of our non-Catholic brethren point out, the Assumption of Our Lady is not to be found explicitly mentioned in Sacred Scripture. For this reason they reject it and accuse the Church of inventing something not revealed by God. So what do we believe about Our Lady's Assumption into Heaven, and why is it so important that we believe it to be revealed by God?

WHAT IS THE ASSUMPTION?

In the first place, we believe that Mary was part of God the Father's plan to redeem mankind from the very beginning. This plan was to send His only-begotten Son – who is the perfect image of His own nature, co-equal and co-eternal with Himself – to become man “like us in all things but sin”. God naturally wanted His Son to be nothing less than the most perfect of men, and to this end He chose Mary, whom He endowed with every grace necessary to be the Mother of His Son, to bear Him in her womb, to nurture and educate Him, even to share His burden as far as this would be possible. Yet she was not to be compelled to accept this awesome role, but was to be invited to do so. Since God foresaw that her Son would bring about an end to Satan's power and the reign of sin over mankind, He willed to give her especially the fruits of that victory from the very first moment of her existence. This is why we call Mary “The Immaculate Conception”, since she was kept free from all sin by the merits of her Son foreseen by God in Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

Mary, aided by God's grace, freely fulfilled all that was asked of her by God. She not only accepted God's Son as her own, but was the first and greatest of His disciples. She shared, as far as possible, in the redeeming work which her Son undertook. She pondered on God's words and works in her life; she pointed to Jesus as the One who could help when the wine ran out at the Marriage Feats at Cana; she ministered to Him in His public ministry, but most of all when she endured the horror of His degradation and cruel death on the

cross; afterwards she prayed with the Apostles and together with them received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. With all this in mind, the Church recognises the unique, though also largely hidden, contribution made to our salvation by Mary the Mother of Jesus. Since we believe that God can do whatever He wills, we believe that, just as He preserved Mary from all sin, so too He preserved her from the punishment due from sin, which is death of the body. So, just as death could not hold the Son of God in its power (Acts 2:24) neither could it hold the sinless Mother who bore Him, since she too was sinless through His power and merit. So Mary is the first of all the redeemed to share the glory of her Son's resurrection.

WHY IS THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY SO IMPORTANT?

The Assumption means that Mary is already fully in heavenly glory. Unlike all the other saints in heaven, she does not need to await the final resurrection on the last day. The Assumption may seem at first to set her apart from the saints and the rest of us, but that is not truly the case. She is the first of the redeemed. What she enjoys is promised to all the saints, all the redeemed at the end of time. We believe that in Mary God gives us a powerful advocate (as at Cana) and a loving Mother (as at the foot of the cross) filled with gifts of the Spirit (at Pentecost). Like her Son, to whom she is the closest of human persons, Our Lady is the “Holy One whom God would not allow to know corruption” (psalm 15:9-11). Our Lady's Assumption to heaven is the sign of hope to us that God's promise of eternal life will be truly fulfilled in a way beyond the limits of our imagination to grasp. May her maternal prayers help us all to keep our gaze focused on our heavenly home, so that “after this our exile [she may] show unto us the blessed fruit of [her] womb, Jesus”

BROTHER LEWIS

Fr Felix Selden, the Visitor of the Oratory, has asked Brother Lewis to spend a year at the Port Elizabeth Oratory in South Africa for pastoral experience. Bro Lewis will return here for a few days and will leave for South Africa in the first week of September.

Sunday August 15th: The Solemnity of the Assumption (White)

- 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. *Low Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 4 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. (for Saturdays: see over)

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 16th August: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Stephen of Hungary. (White).

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

St Stephen of Hungary (c.975-1038) As King of the Magyars, Stephen and his queen, Gisela, who was sister of the emperor St Henry, set about Christianising their people. He united the Magyars into the kingdom of Hungary and organised dioceses, also founding churches and monasteries, particularly the great Abbey of Pannonhalma, which still stands. He was renowned for his kindness and justice.

Tuesday 17th August: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. –9 a.m.** • **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 18th August: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. –9 a.m.**

Thursday 19th August: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St John Eudes Priest. (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St John Eudes (1601-79) Born in Normandy. He was ordained in 1625 and joined the French Oratory. At first, he devoted himself to parochial work and risked his life caring for plague victims. In 1641 he founded the Sisterhood of Our Lady of Charity to care for prostitutes, and in the following year, the Society of Jesus and Mary (the *Eudists*) for the better education of priests.

Friday 20th August: St Bernard, Abbot. Memoria. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. –9 a.m.**

St Bernard (1090-1153) was a Burgundian noble. At 22, he joined the newly reformed austere Benedictine monastery of Cîteaux (the "Cistercians"), together with several companions. Blessed with great qualities of leadership, he was soon chosen to be the abbot of the new foundation at Clairvaux, where he remained the rest of his life. He attracted many devoted followers through his holiness of life and profound teaching. Renowned also for his wisdom, he was much sought-after as a spiritual director and counsellor by popes, bishops and royalty.

Saturday 21st August: St Pius X, Pope. Memoria. (White)

- **Low Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **Low Mass at 11 a.m.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Twenty-first Sunday of the Year) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Pius X (1835-1914) Born Giuseppe Sarto in Northern Italy, he became a pastoral priest, a seminary director, and bishop before being elected Pope in 1904. He devoted his Papacy to reforming the Liturgy, including a revival of sacred music, particularly Gregorian chant and polyphony. He also strove to overcome tendencies in theology which were dangerous to the Faith, known collectively as "Modernism", concerning the truth of Scripture, the nature of the Church and her authority, and the Sacraments. He encouraged the early reception of Holy Communion by children and more frequent Communion by all. A miracle worker, he was considered a saint even in his lifetime.

August 22nd: the Twenty-first 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. During August: Low Mass**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick John Keane, Brenda Molloy, Elizabeth Friday, John Carter, Jaqueline Packham, Thomas Agga, Josephine Spooner, Imelda Martinez, Nick Usher-Somers, Ute Bowyer, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Kevan Bleach, Tony Farmer, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Barbara Jarvis.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Colin Knight and Maureen Moran;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr James Downey, Pat Warburton, Philip Holland, Margaret Girling, Albert Bizec, Anne Grimes, Reg Jenkins and Mary Theresa Coghlan.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, August 21st/22nd The Twenty-first Sunday

Saturday 5.45 p.m: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections last week:

19th Sunday of the Year: 8th August, 2010

Offertory: £1,466

Second: Cardinal Newman's Cause: ££685

Separate Donations: Cardinal Newman's shrine: £6, 155

(Target £45,000: Raised so far: £31,105)

Very Many thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION will be for the continuing expenses of Cardinal Newman's cause.

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Masses and has a large selection of items including DVDs and books.

THIS WEEK

There will be A HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning 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 take place this week on Wednesday this week starting at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 5 p.m. (There will not be a Mass).

FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR CARDINAL NEWMAN'S SHRINE at the Irish Centre, Digbeth on Saturday 21st August from 8.30 till late. Admission £5 includes a light buffet. See the Notice Board for details of the evening's entertainments.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY at GRACE DIEU MANOR, Leicester, to pray for World Peace and for Young People, will take place next Sunday, 22 August commencing with Mass at 3 p.m. and will include a Procession and crowning of our Lady's Statue, Exposition, blessing of the sick and will conclude with Benediction.

St. FRANCIS'S CHURCH, HANDSWORTH is hosting the Revd Fr Professor Emmanuel Edeh, founder and Spiritual Director of the Pilgrimage Centre of Eucharistic Adoration and of the Catholic Prayer Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Elele, Nigeria, for Mass and a get-together on Sunday 22nd August from 3.30 p.m. Please contact N. Okoro 0121 544 1026.

'NEWMAN and BIRMINGHAM' is the title of a lecture which will be given by Professor Sheridan Gilley, author of *Newman and His Age*, to mark

the Beatification of Cardinal Newman. It takes place on Monday 13 September at 6 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham. The event is free but you must register your attendance with Aidan Thompson at a.p.thompson@bham.ac.uk, or 0121 414 3602.

THE POPE'S VISIT: When our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, comes to the Oratory on 19th September, straight after the beatification, he will 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.**

THE NEW SHRINE: We would like to say a very special thank you to all of you who have contributed so far towards setting 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. We are more than half-way there, thanks to your generosity, but we still need another £14,000. For all donations, we would strongly urge those of you who are taxpayers to complete a Gift Aid form (to be found at the doors of the church) as we can increase your donation by claiming money back from Revenue & Customs.

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS are being sought to marshall people in the streets around the Oratory when the Pope visits. If you are not going to the Beatification ceremony at C often Park and if you are fit and able and would like to volunteer please email D Lloyd: dmlloyd@tiscali.co.uk or telephone Jim McManus on 07826 102 092. (Training will be given)

The ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON to honour the Martyrs of the Midlands, will take place on Sunday 5th September. The Mass will be at 3 p.m. and the Principal Celebrant will be His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley.