

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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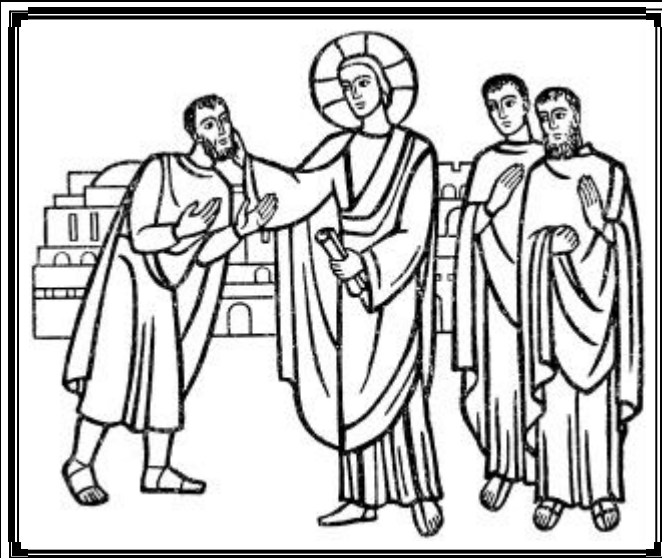
Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

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

September 6th 2009: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



EPHPHATHA!

In only a handful of places do we learn the exact words Our Lord said in His native language on a particular occasion. Today's Gospel gives us one of those occasions and a single word: *Ephphatha*, which in Aramaic means "Be opened!" With this word Our Lord commanded a deaf mute's ears and mouth to be loosened from the bonds that enchained them and prevented them from fulfilling the function for which God had created them. This act of liberation won the admiration of all who witnessed it: "He has done all things well", they said.

In this way Our Lord also fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah which we hear in the first reading (chapter 35:4-7), in which the prophet foresees that when God comes, bringing vengeance and retribution with Him, "then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed...and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy."

But what is this "retribution"? It is God's presence in His Son commanding sickness and sin to depart from mankind enslaved by the Fall. That presence is at work in the Sacraments, and especially in the Sacrament of Baptism in which the priest opens the mouth and ears of the newly baptised to receive and speak God's word.

THE LIFE WEEK

Beginning next Sunday our Life Week will give us all an important opportunity to do some practical things to understand and promote the Culture of Life here in our own parish. Both next Sunday and the following, there will be a special collection for Life work which is not supported by the State, yet provides a vital means of help and information for couples with all kinds of practical requirements: Natural Family Planning for all couples preparing for marriage and recently married, and the true Life-giving alternative to IVF for childless couples. On **Friday evening, 18th September there will be a Meeting in the Lower Cloister Hall** addressed by Dr Anne Carus and Margaret Parsons of Life on all these aspects of fertility. Not only married couples but *all* are encouraged to attend and find out more about what the Church teaches about human life, fertility and why she does so. Such things are not fully understood even by many Catholics, much less by those who are suspicious of the Faith or hostile to it. So please come and discover the exciting truth about Life. More information is also available at the Church Doors both about Life's work in general, and also specifically about the meeting on Friday the 18th.

Throughout the week from Monday 14th to Saturday 19th the annual **Siege of Jericho** will take place beginning from the Oratory with Mass at 3 p.m. followed by a single circuit of the Abortion Clinic on Arthur Road. On Sunday 20th, the final and climactic day of the Siege, there will be no extra Mass, but the Procession will be more solemn, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed and will make seven circuits of the Clinic beginning on Arthur Road at 2 p.m. Please try to support this event especially on Sunday 20th, and if possible on as many as possible of the other six days.

Also, the children of the Primary School will be running various events during that week to raise funds for Life and to increase awareness, in a way that suits their various ages, of the work Life does. Please see over the page for further details of Life Week.

ST. THERESE'S RELICS

Handouts are available at the Church doors of the visit of St. Therese's relics to our area the weekend after next. Do make an effort to go. St. Therese of Lisieux was a remarkable saint who died young but filled with great holiness and wisdom. She also said that she wanted to spend her heaven doing good on earth, and that is exactly what she is doing. Her relics have already been travelling the world and have produced wonderful fruit on the lives of all those who have taken part in venerating her and asking her assistance in prayer. They will spend a couple of days and nights in St. Chad's Cathedral on Saturday September 19th and Sunday 20th before going on to Coleshill for Monday and Tuesday 21st and 22nd.

Sunday September 6th: Twenty-third Sunday (Green)

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal*
- 10.30 a.m. *Solemn High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

TWENTY-THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 3

Tuesday 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 7th September: Feria (Green)

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

Tuesday 8th September: The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (White)

- **Benediction in honour of Our Lady's Birthday at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 9th September: Feria. (Green) Optional memorias of **St Peter Claver, Priest. (White);** or of **St Osburg, Abbess. (White)**

St Peter Claver (1580-1654) A Jesuit missionary in Colombia, then the slave capital of the world. he dedicated his life to the physical and spiritual welfare of the Negro slaves and to the abolition of slavery. He baptised and cared for over 300,000 and endeavoured to maintain contact with his converts, even following them to the plantations urging them to keep the Faith, and prevailing upon their masters to treat them well. **St Osburg** (d. c. 1016) Thought to have been the Abbess of a convent near Coventry, little is known of her, but there has been a lasting local tradition of honouring her.

Thursday 10th September: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of **St Egwin, Bishop. (White);** or of **Bl Agnellus of Pisa, Priest. (White)** **St Ambrose Barlow**

St Egwin (d.717) Bishop of Worcester, he suffered much on account of his efforts to deal with lax clergy. He had a vision of Our Lady (said to be the first ever recorded in England) and as a result, built the great abbey at Evesham. **Bl Agnellus of Pisa** (1194-1235) An Italian Franciscan, St Francis of Assisi sent him to Paris and then to England with nine others, to start a Franciscan mission. They settled in Oxford and found friaries at Canterbury and London. Struck by his holiness, King Henry III asked him to broker peace, so preventing a civil war. His incorrupt body was venerated at Oxford until King Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. **St Ambrose Barlow** (d.1641) A Benedictine in Lancashire, he preferred to live amongst the poor and would not even have a horse so that he made his pastoral visits on foot. He was a holy priest and sought by Catholics from long distances. He was arrested several times over a twenty-four year period, and finally after Easter Day Mass 1641.

Friday 11th September: Feria. (Green)

Saturday 12th September: The Most Holy Name of Mary. (White) or Feria. (Green)

- **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 (Twenty-fourth Sunday) at 5.45 p.m.**

September 13th: The Twenty-fourth 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. Sung Congregational in English**

Please pray for the sick: Maureen Edwards, Paul Beesley, Connie Hayward, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, James Foynes, and May Colquhoun.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Fr. Brendan O'Malley and Agnes Hynes; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Austin Mills & Fr Vincent Reade, both of this Oratory, Mike Marshall, James Hogan, Sarah & Terry Feely, Richard Wilson-Browne, Edward Hill, Bernadette Ivess, Patricia Little and Michael Tomkins

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, September 12th/13th, The Twenty-fourth 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:

22nd Sunday: 30th August, 2009
Offertory: £1,177
Second: Newman Cause: £817

Many thanks

TODAY

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for the DDF

There will also be a RETIRING COLLECTION for the LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON HALL in honour of the English Martyrs takes place today commencing with Holy Mass at 3 p.m., Celebrant and Preacher, Mgr. John Moran. Confessions will be heard from 1.30 p.m.

The PIETY STALL will not be open this weekend.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week or next but will resume on Wednesday 23rd September.

THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION: meet at St Dunstan's Church, Kingsfield Rd, Kings Heath, on Saturday 12th September, 12 noon -3.00 p.m. (Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Cost £2.00) Fr R. Darwen, SJ will speak on Pope Benedict XVI's letter on social justice, "Caritas in Veritate", followed by Tony Sage (town planner): who will speak on the topic: "All property is theft: the built environment and social justice"

The LEGION OF MARY invite you this coming Saturday, 12th, to the Oratory House at 3.15 p.m. to their function (talk, entertainment and tea) in honour of Our Lady's birthday.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

—ORATORY LIFE WEEK—

...will take place from September 13th to 20th, including a **Fertility and Life Issues** meeting, especially suited to those recently married or preparing for marriage, but at which **everybody is welcome**, to be held on Friday September 18th at 7.30 p.m. in the Cloister Buildings. **CLOISTER SALES** to raise funds for LIFE FERTILITY CARE will be held on the weekends of September 12th/13th and 19th/20th.

The seven-day SIEGE OF JERICHO around the abortion clinic on Ar-

thur Road will also take place each afternoon during the week September 14th-20th. Each Afternoon from Monday 14th to Saturday 19th there will be Mass in St. Philip's chapel at 3 p.m. Thence all gather outside the Clinic on Arthur Road for a procession during which the Rosary will be prayed. **On Sunday 20th September there will be no extra Mass in the afternoon, but a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament will take place around the clinic commencing at 2 p.m. in Arthur Road.**

SUNDAY 5.30 p.m. MASS CHOIR resumes after the Summer break next Sunday, September 13th, at 5 p.m. in the Back Gallery. New members are always welcome. No previous experience needed!

A NIGERIAN MASS will take place at St Philip Neri, Smethwick on Sunday 13 September at 2 p.m. For more information and to confirm attendance please contact Chiji on 07846787814

or email: thankGodalmighty@hotmail.com

ST THÉRÈSE'S RELICS will be in St. Chad's Cathedral on 19th and 20th September, in the presence of the Carmelite Sisters from Wolverhampton. On 19th September, they will arrive at St Chad's 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. during which there will be a special Midnight Mass for youth on the beginning of Sunday 20th September followed by a half-hour's quiet prayer (1 a.m.-1.30 a.m.) and an opportunity to meet the Carmelite Sisters. The relics will remain in the Cathedral throughout Sunday 20th and will leave after a Farewell Mass at 6.30 a.m. on Monday 21st. The following day, Monday September 21st, the relics will be visiting The Sacred Heart and St. Therese, Colehill arriving at 9.30 a.m. There will be Mass at noon and at 7 p.m., Exposition from 3-4 p.m. and an all-night vigil commencing at 10 p.m. On Tuesday 22nd., the closing Mass will be at 10 a.m. (The relics will also be visiting the Oxford Oratory from Wednesday 7th October until the afternoon of

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK by St. John Vianney (Patron of Priests):

If I were to meet a priest and an angel, I should salute the priest before I saluted the angel. The latter is the friend of God; but the priest holds His place. St. Teresa (of Avila) kissed the ground where a priest had passed. When you see a priest, you should say, "There is he who made me a child of God, and opened Heaven to me by holy Baptism; he who purified me after I had sinned; who gives nourishment to my soul." At the sight of a church tower, you may say, "What is there in that place?" "The Body of Our Lord." "Why is He there?" "Because a priest has been there, and has said holy Mass."