

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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

September 20th 2009: TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



WELCOME, LORD!

Last week we heard in the Gospel how Our Lord began to prepare His Apostles for the terrible death of the Cross He was to endure. We heard then how Peter spoke up indignantly that this must not happen, and how Our Lord rebuked him most severely because *"the way you think is not God's way, but man's"*.

Today we hear how Our Lord once again foretold His bitter Passion to the Apostles, *"but"*, says St. Mark, *"they did not understand what He said and were afraid to ask Him."* This is the background to what happened next. Shortly after this prediction the Apostles began to argue which of them was the greatest. This was another sign that, like St. Peter their leader, they had failed to grasp what Our Lord was saying. They were all expecting Him to be a glorious King and they, of course, would be His right hand men, the leaders of the people, respected and looked up to with awe by all.

Hence Our Lord's response was to say to them, *"If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all."* To show them what He meant even more graphically He took a child and told them, *"Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the One who sent me!"*

Our Lord was especially fond of little children, not in a sentimental way, but for their simplicity, trustfulness and innocence. These qualities, He says, are not only precious in children but also in adults. Yet it is rare to find them in those who have grown up and been to some extent corrupted by the world and its "false ware and magic coffers" (as Cardinal Newman puts it). Still, these are qualities that we ought to strive to develop or recover by grace. Those who do live in a state of childlike trustfulness in God's providence are especially close to Our Lord. The Apostles, (St. John was an exception because he retained this childlike simplicity and innocence all his life), had to relearn it in adult life, but they did so by God's grace. We, too, can do the same by prayer and the Sacraments.

FORTY HOURS

Our annual celebration of the Forty Hours is only just over a fortnight away, beginning on Tuesday October 6th and ending on Thursday 8th. During that time the Blessed Sacrament will be almost continuously exposed on the High Altar for our adoration, prayer and praise. Please make a note in your diaries now and look out next week for the list at the back of church where we ask everyone to sign up for half an hour's silent prayer, to make sure that Our Lord is never left alone. Of course, nobody need think that they should only come for one half hour period! It is a wonderful opportunity to come to Mass and to stay on for a little while, maybe ten, maybe fifteen or twenty minutes or even longer as you can manage. But please do come. There is so much to pray for and we all need to deepen our awareness of the wonder of Christ's real presence in our tabernacles and on our Altars in the Blessed Sacrament.

Please also note that candles to be burned on the Sanctuary during the three days' devotion (about a hundred are lit around the Monstrance in which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed) will be available to buy from today in the Cloisters. It is a special offering which we can make in supplication for a loved one or a special intention. A candle can burn on the Sanctuary when we are not able to be present as a sign of our spiritual offering and of our willingness to take part at all times in the adoration of our Saviour.

Sunday September 20th: Twenty-fifth 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>Congregational Mass</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>Solemn High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Vespers and Benediction</i> |

TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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

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 21st September: St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist. Feast. (Red)

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

St Matthew was a tax collector named Levi when Our Lord called him to be one of the twelve apostles. His Gospel, the first, was written for his fellow countrymen in their native Aramaic and is thought to have been written c. 40-50 AD. Its description of the Holy City with its temple still standing, indicates that it was, in any case, written before its destruction by the Romans in 70 AD. He is thought to have been martyred in Egypt or Persia.

Tuesday 22nd September: Feria. (Green)

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

Wednesday 23rd September: St Pio of Pietrelcina, Priest. Memoria. (White)

St. Pio (1887-1968) 'Padre Pio' was born Francesco Forgione, of Italian peasant farmers. He joined the Capuchins in Morcone when only fifteen and was ordained a priest at age twenty-two. In 1918, whilst praying he received the Stigmata, the first priest ever to do so, and the blood from the marks was said to have had the odour of roses. He was sought as a confessor by thousands and he could see into penitents souls. He also performed miracles of healing and could levitate and bilocate. He was canonised in 2002.

Thursday 24th September: Our Lady of Walsingham. Memoria. (White)

- **High Mass and Procession at 7.30 p.m. Celebrant Bishop Pargeter (see below)**

According to tradition, in 1061 Richedelis de Faverches was instructed at Walsingham by Our Lady to build a replica of the house at Nazareth where the Annunciation took place. The original shrine was destroyed during the Reformation in Henry VIII's reign.

Friday 25th September: Feria. (Green)

Saturday 26th September: Our Lady on Saturday. (White). Feria. (Green).

Optional memoria of Sts Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs. (Red)

- **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-sixth Sunday) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Cosmas and St Damian (d.303) Twins from Arabia, they were physicians who gave their services free to the poor. They were highly esteemed at Egaea in Cilicia, where they lived, but their prominence led to their arrest during the Diocletian persecutions. The church erected to their honour in Rome is one of the earliest still in existence.

September 27th: The Twenty-sixth 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: Paul Beesley, Maureen Edwards, Michael McCann, Grant Roberts, Philip McCann, David Pritchard, James Foynes, William O'Leary, Marie Staunton, Connie Hayward, Carolyn Knight, Ray Colquhoun and May Colquhoun.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Paul Mee, Cornelius McNamara and Patrick Crawford
and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Rose Malynn, Margaret Murray, Marion Arnott-Job, Patrick Moran, Mary Moran, Thomas Mooney, Philip Mills and Anna Stokes.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, September 26th/27th, The Twenty-sixth Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

24th Sunday: 13th September, 2009
Offertory: £1,429

Second: Beatification Expenses: £527
Retiring Collection (6th September):
for the Little Sisters of the Poor: £1209

Many thanks

TODAY

—ORATORY LIFE WEEK concludes today—

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for "LIFE"

The seven-day "SIEGE OF JERICHO" around the abortion clinic on Arthur Road *ends today with a procession around the abortion clinic seven times commencing at 2 p.m. in Arthur Road*, during which we will pray the Rosary. Please join this important act of witness.

There will be a CLOISTER SALE for LIFE FERTILITY CARE

The PIETY STALL will be open this weekend after all Sunday Masses, including on Saturday evening.

SUNDAY 5.30 p.m. MASS CHOIR has resumed after the Summer break. If you wish to sing, please be in the Back Gallery by 5 p.m. New members are always welcome. No previous experience needed!

THIS WEEK

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX'S relics will remain in St Chad's Cathedral throughout today and will leave after a Farewell Mass at 6.30 a.m. tomorrow, Monday 21st. Thereafter, the relics will be visiting The Sacred Heart and St. Therese, Coleshill 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 Thursday 8th October.: see poster for details.)

ADORATION AT REDNAL resumes on Wednesday with Mass at 2.30 p.m., Exposition and ending with Benediction at c. 4.40 p.m.

The WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION will be providing refreshments in the Lower Cloister Hall after the high Mass on Wednesday evening in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham (see above). Bishop Pargeter will be Principal Celebrant at the Mass which will mark the 40th an-

niversary of the founding of the Birmingham Branch of the Walsingham Association.

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OPEN EVENING for September 2010 Year 7 intake will be held at the school in Vernon Road on Wednesday, from 6-9 p.m.. The Headteacher will address parents at 6.15 and 8.00 p.m.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP outing to Oscott on Saturday: Meet at Oscott for Mass at 11 a.m. after which there will be a tour of the chapel and the museum. Please 'phone Richard Winstanley for all other details, or if you have queries about the trip: 07905 601 721

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND will be the annual collection for **Fr Hudson's Society**.

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH meets on Saturday 3rd October at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House. *All are welcome*

The ANNUAL NEWMAN PILGRIMAGE TO LITTLEMORE to commemorate the reception of Cardinal Newman into the Catholic Church will take place on Saturday, October 10th and will include Mass at the Church of Blessed Dominic Barberi at which the preacher will be Bishop Philip Boyce. Booking forms are to be found at the doors of the church.

NOTICES

APF REDBOX HOLDERS: The year comes to an end on 30th September and **all boxes** need to be emptied. Please would you cooperate with your collector in getting your boxes exchanged when requested. *Many thanks.*

EPIPHANY PRIZE DRAW: Once again we will be offering a 1st prize of £500 and a 2nd of £100 and would be grateful for donations! Please address to Fr Cunniff.

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

When the bell calls you to church, if you were asked, "Where are you going?" you might answer, "I am going to feed my soul." If someone were to ask you, pointing to the tabernacle, "What is that golden door?" "That is our storehouse, where the true Food of our souls is kept." "Who has the key? Who lays in the provisions? Who makes ready the feast, and who serves the table?" "The priest." "And what is the Food?" "The precious Body and Blood of Our Lord." "O God! O God! how Thou hast loved us! See the power of the priest; out of a piece of bread the word of a priest makes a God. It is more than creating the world. . . . Someone said, "Does St. Philomena, then, obey the Cure of Ars?" Indeed, she may well obey him, since God obeys him.