

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.

June 14th 2009: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



THE GREATEST SACRAMENT

Last Sunday we celebrated the greatest of all mysteries, the Blessed Trinity. Today we celebrate the greatest of all Sacraments, the Eucharist. All the Church's Sacraments are instituted by Christ, and in them all He is present and active. Yet the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood surpasses them all, for in it He is not only active, He is fully present in His entirety: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Nothing that He is, as both God and man, is absent from the Blessed Sacrament. All that differs from Him as He is in the totality of His being is the visible form. Out of His desire to be the food of our bodies and souls, He instituted this Sacrament under the forms of food and drink, so that we could thereby be both nourished and comforted.

All the other Sacraments are a preparation for this one, since they are all instituted in order to bring us to Communion with Our Lord. In heaven where we will be in full communion with Our Lord, there will be no more need of the other Sacraments. Yet all that Our Lord's Body and Blood really is here and now will then still be at the centre of all things. The only difference will be the *mode* of His presence. In heaven He will no longer be veiled from our sight by the forms of bread and wine, but He will see us face to face in all His glorified humanity and godhead. That same Lord and God, once crucified and now risen eternally, whom we hope to see by His mercy for ever in heaven, that same Lord and God is present here to us now in the Host.

It is because of the awesome greatness of this Sacrament - because it is not an object, but a living Person, the Second Person of the Trinity, Son of the Eternal Father and of the Blessed Virgin Mary - that the Church founded this solemnity of Corpus Christi. This feast recalls for us the day on which the Sacrament and the Sacrifice in which it was instituted: Maundy Thursday. We celebrate Corpus Christi as a new Maundy Thursday only *after* Pentecost since it was only when the Holy Spirit had descended on the infant Church on Pentecost that the meaning of the Eucharist could at last begin to be understood in all its wonder by the Church.

Moreover, it is fitting that we celebrate this feast of joy and thanksgiving with First Communion for twenty children from our Primary School at the 12 noon Mass. Please pray that they continue to receive Him throughout their lives and so to come safely and gloriously to full communion with Him and all the saints in heaven.

Then at 4 o'clock we will have our annual Outdoor Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. We will accompany the Lord in the Sacred Host, singing His praises and consecrating the streets near to our Church with His presence. The children who have made their First Communion in the morning will have pride of place, nearest to the Blessed Sacrament, strewing petals to make a carpet for Our Lord to be carried over, and ringing bells to announce his passing by. Do please come and give your prayerful and joyful support to this act of witness. Who knows what great blessings may be poured out on this district when the Creator and Redeemer of all is carried through the streets?

THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS

Corpus Christi also recalls the Priestly Offering Our Lord made of Himself at the Last Supper and on the Cross. Hence our picture today shows our Lord on the Cross in priestly vestments to emphasise that the Last Supper and Calvary are one continuous act on Our Lord's part. This sacred priesthood of Our Lord is also celebrated in the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart on Friday, when the Year of the Priesthood will be inaugurated by Pope Benedict. During this coming year we pray for all priests that they may continue to grow in holiness and in union with Our Lord, whose instruments they are in celebrating His Sacraments and teaching His Faith to His people. See over the page for the inauguration of this year for Priests by Archbishop Nichols at Oscott, and please come and take part in our night Vigil connecting the feasts of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and His Mother which will begin after the High Mass on Friday and end with Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sunday June 14th: Corpus Christi (*White*)

- 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. *(First Holy Communion Mass)*
- 4.00 p.m. *Corpus Christi Procession*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

TENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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

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 15th June: Feria. (Green).

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

Tuesday 16th June: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Richard of Chichester, Bishop. (White)

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

St Richard of Chichester (1197-1262) Born into a farming family at Droitwich, he was educated at Oxford and Paris. He became Chancellor of Oxford University but was soon appointed Chancellor to (St) Edmund at Canterbury. Disputes with the king forced both to France, where Edmund died, but Richard returned to England a priest and was soon Archbishop of Chichester. He stamped out abuses and reformed laxness in the clergy. Known for his simple life, he took great interest in and care of the poor.

Wednesday 17th June: Feria. (Green)

Thursday 18th June: The Dedication of the Cathedral. Feast. (White)

Friday 19th June: The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. (White).

- **High Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8 p.m. followed by**
- **Vigil in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus & the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Till 3.15 a.m.) in the Cloister Chapel**

Saturday, June 20th: The Immaculate Heart of Mary. (White) St Alban, Martyr. (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 (Corpus Christi) at 5.45 p.m.**

The Immaculate Heart of Mary: Our Lady's Immaculate Heart symbolises her virtues and perfections, especially her love of God, her maternal love for Our Lord, and in reflecting her Son's Sacred Heart, her love for us. The Gospels make references to how her heart would be pierced with a sword, and how she pondered Our Lord's words and actions 'in her heart'. Devotion grew over the centuries and in 1855, the Office and Mass of the Pure heart of Mary were approved. More recently, during the third apparition at Fatima in 1917, Our Lady told the visionaries that "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart". She also asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. On 25 March 1984, Pope John Paul II fulfilled this request again, when he made the solemn act of consecration of the world, and implicitly Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary before the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Fatima brought to Saint Peter's Square from there. This Oratory was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Feast of the Holy Rosary 2002.

St Alban (d. c.287) He was a pagan Briton and a Roman soldier in the important Roman city of Verulamium, now named St Alban's in his honour. He was converted by a priest whom he later saved by taking his place, thus allowing his escape. Alban was tortured before being executed. He is the proto-martyr of this island.

June 21st: The Twelfth 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**
- **7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Sr Francis Clare, Connie Hayward, David Dearn, Pat Healey, Jean Smith, Peter Young, Doris Wollaston, May Poppins, John Rose, Carole Halls, Marie-Therese Jones, Michael McCann, Patrick Walshe and Barry Long.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: John Murphy;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Thomas Reeves, Mary Maguire and Gerald Healy.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, June 20th/21st, The Twelfth Sunday of the Year:

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.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

Trinity 7th June, 2009

Offertory: £1,298

Second: Cause for Cardinal Newman's Beatification: £778

Many Thanks

TODAY

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY: The children of Year 3 in the Oratory Primary School will receive their First Holy communion at the 12 noon Mass.

The annual outdoor BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION will take place at 4 p.m. Please make a special effort and encourage your friends and families to come and join in this act of love and homage to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will again be for the costs of the Cause for Cardinal Newman's Beatification.

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, including Saturday evening & has a **wide selection of 1st Communion gifts & cards, and books etc for children**, as well as the usual stock

THIS WEEK

PARISH COUNCIL meets on Monday at 8 p.m. Lower Cloister Hall.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will NOT take place this week.

EX CATHEDRA CONCERT: vespers by Candlelight, takes place on Wednesday evening **at 9 p.m.** Ticket enquiries: 236 4455.

VIGIL OF REPARATION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS & THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY will be held here on the **Friday night 19th/20th June**. High Mass will be at 8 p.m. on Friday (the Feast of the Sacred Heart) and the Vigil will be held immediately following (in the Cloister Chapel). There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary & other prayers. Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be at 2.30 a.m. We end with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 a.m. **Please join us, even if for only a while.**

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: The next meeting will be on Tuesday (12—2 p.m.) to read "A Mother's Tale" by Victoria Gillick. All women, including new members, are welcome. Please contact Jackie Parkes: 688 4154 rosary@blueyonder.co.uk

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP OUTING: Saturday, leaving the Oratory at 12 noon for picnic and boating at Canon Hill Park. Please contact Richard for more details: 07905 601 721.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 50th anniversary: 'Families in the Field' on Saturday. Those with any connections, past or present with the school are invited to attend this open day from 11 - 5 p.m. Please take a picnic. An open-air Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The NEWMAN ASSOCIATION (Birmingham Branch) invites you to its **Day of Devotion** led by Fr Stephen Pimlott, at SS Wulstan & Thomas, 32 Vale Rd Stourport, on Wednesday 24th June from 10.45 a.m.-2.30 p.m. Please take a packed lunch.

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: 1st—2nd August: Bookings being taken. Please call: 454 0130

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, Vernon Rd, invite you to their Flower Festival on 27th & 28th June. Please see poster for details.

ECUMENICAL SONGS OF PRAISE is at 6 p.m. on 5th July, at St Augustine's. C of E, Lyttleton Rd, Edgbaston. Two volunteers are wanted to choose a hymn each. If you are interested, **please let Fr Guy know by the end of today (14th June)**

NOTICES

YEAR FOR PRIESTS: 19th JUNE 2009—19th JUNE 2010: Following on from the Year of St. Paul which comes to an end on the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, the Pope has announced a "Year for Priests" beginning on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, Friday June 19th. Locally this year will be launched at a Mass in the grounds of Oscott College on Sunday, June 28th at 2 p.m., celebrated by Archbishop Nichols.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA (proposed): Sat 5th -12th September: c. £395 (sharing). Speak to Stephanie 4540496 if you are interested.

PT TIME TEACHING VACANCY: September—January at Our Lady of Fatima Primary School, Harborne. Please call 429 2900. Details at eteach.com or Birmingham Forward, June edition