

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.

February 8th 2009: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



HEALER AND SAVIOUR

In today's Gospel, St. Mark continues the account of our Lord's healing work among the Galileans very early on in His public ministry. All that Jesus does: casting out the devil, making the sick well, teaching the people—all this is necessary to make fallen man *whole*. The fall of our first parents has left us all wounded in our nature, both bodily and spiritually—and Our Lord has come in great love to heal us entirely. St. Mark gives us the impression of a huge throng of people pressing in upon Our Lord, and leaving Him no space or time to Himself. This is why He is compelled to get up early in the morning to find time to be alone with His heavenly Father in prayer. Yet even so, Simon Peter and Our Lord's other companions come searching for Him, saying that "everyone is looking for you!". So Jesus replies, "Let us go to the neighbouring country towns so that I can preach there too, *because that is why I came.*" In other words, all this

work, healing and preaching, is the purpose of Our Lord's humanity, of His Incarnation—to bring the truth that sets us free to us all, to liberate us from Satan's power and his empty promises.

DOCTOR DEATH

Until recently, most of us probably had never heard of Aribert Heim. He was a Doctor in Nazi Germany who, like the infamous Dr. Mengele, practised horrific experiments upon Prison Camp inmates. Although reported as dead some years ago, he is believed by some to be still alive and in hiding, and hence those who want to try him for his crimes are seeking to discover his whereabouts. What terrible things did he do to warrant his still being pursued over sixty years later? In truth, many of the things he did were so horrible that they cannot easily be described. It is enough to say that he experimented on prisoners without using anaesthetics, and, stopwatch in hand, callously timed how long it took them to die in agony as a result of his horrific "experiments". He even kept the head of one of his victims on his desk as a paperweight.

What explanation can there be for such appalling cruelty? The reason why men like Mengele and Heim did such wicked things is because they believed that their victims were not worthy of being treated as human at all. Many poor men, women and even children were treated by these doctors as "subhuman" fodder for their medical "research". But these doctors were not alone. They were imbued with the profoundly anti-Christian Nazi philosophy of belonging to a "Master Race" that gave them power over inferior humans. It seems incredible that such ideas were believed and acted on so readily. Yet we need to be aware that Nazi philosophy was not all devised by Hitler. The idea that only physically beautiful and intelligent people were fit to have children, called "eugenics", was widely advocated by the Nazis but was first developed in *this* country by people like Marie Stopes. To many people today she is a heroine for her championship of birth-control but few realise that the reason why she advocated contraception was primarily so that "less suitable" people should be prevented from breeding and polluting the gene-pool. Some people today are still drawn to such eugenic ideas, but fail to realise how it contributed positively towards the attitudes and deeds of men like Mengele and Heim.

In this country, after all, we do not treat other races as subhuman, as the Nazis did. But we openly and callously do terrible things to innocent human beings. How? Because abortion has become so socially acceptable, we have grown used to the idea that some human beings are expendable at others' will. Once we have got used to the idea that babies in the womb are not yet fully human, then we feel free to treat them as fodder for experiments: creating animal/human hybrids, or using these tiny persons as "spare parts" for other people's needs. We are told that all this is for the good of others—as in the creation of "saviour siblings" designed to serve the needs of another person. Yet what we need to proclaim ever more insistently is that there is only one true "Saviour", that is Christ. He heals all sickness and overcomes the devil's deceptions, because He alone truly loves all human persons He has created and longs to see us all reach our true fulfilment. Quite simply, His love for the smallest embryo He has created is as great as His love for you and me and any other human being who has ever lived.

Sunday February 8th: The Fifth Sunday of the Year (*Green*)

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 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>High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Vespers and Benediction</i> |

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.

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

Monday February 9th: Feria. (Green)

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

Tuesday February 10th: St Scholastica, Virgin. Memoria. (White)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel

St Scholastica (c.480-543) At an early age she dedicated her life to God, and after her brother, (St) Benedict established his monastery at Montecassino, she founded a convent not far away. Traditionally thought to have been Benedict's twin, she was very close to her brother. They used to meet once a year to discuss spiritual matters and so she is regarded as the first nun of the Benedictine Order. Three days following her death, St Benedict was said to have had a vision in which he saw his sister ascending to heaven.

Wednesday February 11th: Feria. (Green) Commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. (White)

Thursday February 12th. Feria. (Green)

Friday February 13th. Feria. (Green)

Saturday February 14th: St Cyril, Monk & St Methodius, Bishop. Patrons of Europe. Feast. (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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of the Sixth Sunday of the Year: at 5.45 p.m.**

St Cyril and St Methodius (d. 869 & 885): These brothers were sons of a prominent Christian family in Thessalonica. Cyril (Constantine until shortly before he died) became a secular priest and Methodius a monk. Because many Slavs settled at Thessalonica, the two were familiar with the Slavic language and were chosen when the prince of Moravia requested missionaries able to preach to his people in their own tongue. Their immediate success aroused hostility with the German rulers and ecclesiastics, and the use of the Slavonic language in the Greek liturgy was forbidden until the Pope intervened. Following Cyril's death, Methodius returned to Moravia and was appointed Bishop of Sirmium, but despite the papal sanction, the Germans had him imprisoned and by the time of his release two years later, his influence there had been blocked. His remaining years were spent translating the Bible and works of the Fathers of the Church. Meanwhile, their missionary work had spread to Bulgaria, Serbia and Russia where the Slavonic of Cyril & Methodius is still the liturgical language of both Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches. The Cyrillic alphabet in use today is traditionally ascribed to St Cyril. Pope John Paul II, himself a Slav, declared them co-Patrons of Europe.

Sunday February 15th: The 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. High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Priscilla & John Seery, Mary Yates, Mary Cunliffe, Patricia Healey, Raymond Colqhoun, Marie-Therese Jones, Margaret Casey, Carole Halls, Ingeborg Parkes, Nicola Moore-Bridger and Kim Potter.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Monica Houghton and Betty Fane:

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Joseph Gordon, Fr Lewis Bel-lasis and Fr Henry Tristram, all of this Oratory, Dorothy Bowyer, Margaret Hogan, Nora Quinlen, Peggy Kearney, Lucy Arnold, Amy Barker, Joseph Harvey and Kevin Coles.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, February 14th/15th, 6th Sunday of the Year:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan
Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Morag Marinoni
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

Fourth Sunday of the Year: 1st February, 2009
Offertory: £1,375
Second: Maintenance of our church: £547
Thank you

TODAY

The second collection today will be for the Music in our Church.

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week, but is expected to take place as usual on **Wednesday, February 18th**, commencing with holy Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction. However, please telephone (454 0496) on the morning of February 18th to confirm that adoration is taking place there.

Our TALKS on ST PAUL & HIS TEACHINGS in this Year which Pope Benedict has designated as the Year of St Paul continue on Saturday in the Lower Cloister Hall after the 11 a.m. Mass (approx 11.30 a.m.) This week the talk will be given by Fr Anton on the subject of "St Paul's Letters to the Corinthians" *These talks are extremely interesting and informative. Please come along and encourage your friends in other parishes to do so.*

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Friday May 1st—Friday May 8th 2009: Flying from Stansted Airport, the cost for sick pilgrims is £240. The cost for other pilgrims (who must be prepared to help with the sick in some capacity, however small) is approx £550. Anyone interested should contact Fr Paul or Fr Guy AS SOON AS POSSIBLE in order to send off for an application form as places are very limited.

The ANNIVERSARY OF CARDINAL NEWMAN'S BIRTH, Saturday 21st February: Instead of the Annual Musical Oratory, the combined choirs of the Oratory School, Woodcote will sing Vespers at 4 p.m., followed by Benediction. Refreshments will be available in the Lower Cloister Hall beforehand, at 3 p.m. finishing promptly at 3.45 p.m. (The Saturday evening Mass will be at 5.45 p.m. as usual).

ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL FUNDRAISING DANCE will take place in the Grimshaw Room on Saturday 21st February at 8 p.m. Tickets are £4 each. Please telephone 0121 236 2251 or 230 6209.

PROCESSION OF THE RELICS OF ST CHAD takes place after the 12 noon Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday, 28th February. Year 6/5 children who have visited the Cathedral are encouraged to go with their parents.

NOTICES

OUR LADY'S 'PILGRIM' STATUE is available for all who wish to welcome Our Lady into their home and deepen their love for her, particularly by saying the Rosary. Our Lady's prayers are all powerful with God. The more we invite her into our hearts, the greater her influence for us with God. She will not only pray for our deepest needs and intentions, but will help us to find the way to a renewal of prayer in our daily lives. Forms are to be found at the doors of the church.

SERVERS: volunteers are still wanted for all Sunday Masses. Training will be given. Please see one of the Fathers.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single practising Catholics meet up, either one to one or through social events. For more information please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN AT SUNDAY 12 o'clock MASS: Parents can find it difficult to know what to do with young children during Mass. Perhaps some of you feel embarrassed if others may find it difficult to pay attention to what is going on, especially during the sermon! Remember—St. Philip's Chapel (near to the Plough and Harrow Road entrance) is available especially during the 12 noon Mass for parents to take young children. There is a collection of picture books with prayers for the Mass and stories about the Saints and the Scriptures. But if you do take your children into the chapel please stay with them. Please remember that the Chapel is not a playground, **and is only intended for use by children with their parents and not for any child who has received First Holy Communion.**