

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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August 29th 2010: THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



FRIEND, COME UP HIGHER!

Anyone who has ever read Charles Dickens's novel "David Copperfield" will shudder to recall the sinister character of Uriah Heep, who frequently proclaims his own "umbleness". He may seem at first to pose as a real model of humility, even though this makes him no less loathsome as a character. You might say that he makes the very idea of humility seem repellent. Yet in reality he is eaten up with an overweening pride and ambition. His humility is utterly false. In fact, it is a cover for his intense fury at what he perceives to be a lack of "respect" shown him by others and which he so certainly feels is his due. His "humility" comes in the end to be seen as a mask for his scheming, which leads eventually to his downfall.

By contrast, Our Lord tells us in today's Gospel what true humility is like. If humility has nothing to do with Uriah Heep's way of pretending not to be proud, what is it really like? Being humble does not mean that we have to hate ourselves. Nor does it mean that we have to "do ourselves down". Humility does not mean false modesty—denying the truth if the truth does us credit. For instance, the great Bishop Ullathorne, who was Cardinal Newman's bishop here in Birmingham, was once asked—"what is the best book to read about humility?" and his answer was, "mine, the one I wrote". Although that looks at first like boastfulness, Bishop Ullathorne was being humble. He had written a book about humility which, in his honest opinion, was the best available on the subject. If he had said that another, less thorough treatment of the subject, was better than his, he would actually have been lying, and lying is not humility! To say another book was better when he thought otherwise would be false modesty, not true humility.

So Our Lord gives us an example of what humility is in practise. He reminds his hearers what they would normally do when invited to some special occasion, like a banquet. In His day in the Holy Land, they did not know the custom at formal occasions that we often follow here, for instance at wedding receptions, where places are allocated to guests according to family relationships or acquaintanceship. It was instead customary for places to be allocated according to a strict sense of social superiority. The places nearest the host were allocated to the most distinguished guests, and the least important were allocated the places furthest away. Imagine the scope for jealousy and resentment that a "wrong" placement could mean! And what could be more degrading than to take a place and be told in the full presence of all the other guests that we had taken one higher than our status deserved! Our Lord encourages us to avoid all the pain and indignity of wounded pride that goes with such a public humiliation. Isn't it better, He says, to go instantly to the lowest place of your own accord, thinking that everyone is better than yourself, and then to have the possibility of your host telling you in front of everyone else that you have taken far too low a place?

Our Lord is not thereby encouraging us to be falsely modest, by pretending to be the least important while secretly harbouring a hope that we will be recognised as more important. Rather He teaches us to realise that pride only leads to unhappiness while humility, far from making us sad, is actually the sure way of finding happiness in accepting "who we really are". In the end, of course, humility is all about our relations with God. If we realise that we depend totally on Him for everything that we are and have, then being proud makes absolutely no sense whatever. Since we have not made ourselves, we owe everything to the One who has made us. Since we own nothing when we come into the world and can take nothing out of it, we must realise that pride in our own status and abilities is a delusion. All our self-knowledge depends on that truth.

PREPARING THE WAY

The day of Cardinal Newman's beatification is now less than a month away. The shrine chapel which the Pope will inaugurate on September 19th is approaching completion. Please keep these final stages of preparation in your prayers as there is much to be done and thought about. Also please support the various events connected with the beatification, such as the lecture at Birmingham University on "Cardinal Newman and Birmingham". Details are given on the other side of this newsletter.

Sunday August 29th: The Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

- 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 2 in the Divine Office

Tuesday 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 30th August: Bl. Juvenal Ancina, Oratorian Priest. Memoria. (White)

- **BANK HOLIDAY: Low Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**
- **Adoration from 8.30 a.m. ending with Solemn Benediction at 10.40 a.m.**
- **No Evening Devotions.**

Bl. Juvenal Ancina (1545-1604) He already had a Doctorate in medicine when he realised his true vocation and joined the Oratory in Rome. He was ordained at 33 and St Philip sent him to Naples, where he was instrumental in the building of a splendid shrine, *del Tesoro*, in honour of Naples' patron saint St Januarius. He was appointed Archbishop of Saluzzo in North Italy, where he became great friends with St Francis de Sales who was Bishop of Geneva. Bl Juvenal worked tirelessly to reform lax behaviour of clergy; he opened a seminary and began a systematic visitation of parishes to implement the decrees of the Council of Trent. He was renowned for his humility and lived an austere life in private. Many were inspired by his holiness. He was beatified in 1890.

Tuesday 31st August: Feroa. (Green) Optional Memoria of St Aidan and the Saints of Lindisfarne. (White)

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

St Aidan and the Saints of Lindisfarne (7th cent) Aidan, an Irishman, joined the famous Monastery at Iona and was sent from there on a Mission to Northumbria where he was consecrated Bishop, making Lindisfarne his headquarters. The monks there accumulated no wealth, applying all surpluses to the needs of the poor, and it became a centre for education and missionary work under Aidan. St Bede described him as a man 'of remarkable gentleness and goodness'. Many saints were educated at Lindisfarne.

Wednesday 1st September: Feria. (Green).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. -9 a.m.**

Thursday 2nd September: Feria. (Green).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

Friday 3rd September: St Gregory the Great, Pope & Apostle of the English. Memoria. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. -9 a.m.**

St Gregory the Great (c.540-604) A Benedictine, he was the first monk to be elected Pope. He was a great reformer, changing the administration of the Church's Roman estates using the income for the aid of victims of war. He also protected Jews. He embellished the Liturgy in its sacramentary & chant and wrote prolifically. He had a great interest in the English and by sending St Augustine & forty monks from his own monastery, he was responsible for the conversion of most of England.

Saturday 4th September: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or Feria. (Green); or optional memoria of St Cuthbert, Bishop. (White)

- **Low Masses at 8 a.m. and 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-third Sunday of the Year) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Cuthbert (d.687) An Anglo-Saxon Englishman of Northumbria, he was a shepherd boy who became a monk and was appointed Bishop of Lindisfarne. Following the Synod of Whitby, he set about reforming the English Church by promoting Roman customs. A miracle worker in his lifetime, his body was found incorrupt. His remains are enshrined at Durham Cathedral.

September 5th: the Twenty-third 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 Carl Briggs, Miles Drew, Ben Zissman, Brenda Molloy, Elizabeth Priday, John Carter, Jaqueline Packham, Josephine Spooner, Nick Usher-Somers, Ute Bowyer, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Kevan Bleach, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Barbara Jarvis.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: John Keane;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Charles Chavasse, Kenneth Stevens, Louisa Dutton and Richard Wilson-Browne

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, September 4th/5th The Twenty-third Sunday

Saturday 5.45 p.m: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Peter Bateman
12.00 p.m.: Morag Marinoni
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections last week:

The Twenty-first Sunday: 22nd August, 2010

Offertory: £1,456

Second: Cardinal Newman's Shrine: £835

Separate Donations: Cardinal Newman's shrine: £2,712

(Target £45,000: Raised so far: c.£40,000)

Very many thanks

TODAY

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

THE PIETY STALL will not be open this weekend. **Next weekend, Cardinal Newman medals will be on sale.** (Please note: the Catholic News-papers can be bought in the Plough & Harrow entrance porch.)

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 The Beatification and the Pope's visit. *Except on Monday, when Adoration will take place from 8.30—10.40 a.m.*

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will take place on Wednesday starting at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 5 p.m. (There will be no Mass beforehand, but there is, of course, Mass in church at 5.45 p.m. as usual).

YOUNG ADULTS (20-35) meet on Thursday 2nd at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. Joanna Bogle, Catholic author and journalist, will give a talk on "The Life & Message of Pope Benedict XVI"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF 'THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS' (Cardinal Newman's great work, set to music by Edward Elgar) **on the eve of the Beatification, 18th September,** will take place at the Town Hall at 5.30 p.m. It will be performed on period instruments by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment with Ex Cathedra. For tickets: Town Hall Box Office 0121 780 3333 (and early booking is recommended).

The NEWMAN CONFERENCE takes place on Saturday 18th at the ICC from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. The cost for the day, is £80 (£45 concessions). Lunch, and a copy of the official Newman Biography is included in the cost. To book: 0121 780 3333, or at www.thsh.co.uk

'NEWMAN and BIRMINGHAM' - 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 straight after the beatification, he will be the first pilgrim to pray in the new shrine in St Philip's Chapel. This is a tremendous honour, not only for Cardinal Newman, but also for our parish and community. The visit will be very short **and it will be completely private.**

THE NEW SHRINE: We are nearly there, thanks to your generosity, but we still need another £5,000 to reach our target. 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. 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 Programme sellers: IVS, official merchandiser for the papal visit, are looking for volunteers to sell the Official Programme to pilgrims: "...people who are friendly, enthusiastic and keen". Volunteers who need to be over 16 will have access to the event & are also invited to purchase up to 3 items of the merchandise at 75% discount. (These to be ordered through IVS before the event—details: www.papalvisitstore.com) For further information: 0208 560 0009 ext 259 or email sam.mason@ivsgroupltd.com