

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.

November 23rd 2008: THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING



HE WILL COME AGAIN IN GLORY AS JUDGE

What are we really thinking when, week after week, we say in the Creed: "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end"? How do these words affect what we do and believe *right now*? There are many people who have a great respect for the historical Jesus. They revere His noble character, they study and admire His teachings, they approve His courage and wisdom, but they do not worship Him as God.

Does it matter? Many people would say "No". They argue that it cannot make any difference to Our Lord's message whether or not you believe that He was God. His teaching stands on its own merits. His command to love our neighbour is just as good whether or not He is God.

But for us, this question whether Jesus is God is crucial. It *does* matter that Jesus was, or rather, *is* God. It matters, not because this makes His teaching more true than it might be if He were not God—but because as God He has ultimate authority both to teach us and to judge us. Since He is God and our Creator, He has the right, without any permission of ours, to judge us. We did not ask to be made. We had no choice about it. Yet here we have been put in this world, and if we are wise we will understand that there are only two real possible reactions to that fact: we either *accept* that we are under the authority of Our Lord God, our Creator, Redeemer and Judge, or else we *reject* all that Christ has done for us. When the time comes, we will not ask or even consent to be judged. It will happen, willy-nilly. Those who reject Christ will be condemned by Him *eternally*. That word "*eternally*" is not a figure of speech. It really does mean *for ever*. His kingdom will have no end. Neither will hell. Do we ever stop and think that we could be condemned to the "everlasting punishment" He talks about in today's Gospel? Unless we recognise that the possibility of condemnation exists for us, we run the serious danger of not taking our eternal destiny seriously enough.

So the question of Our Lord's divinity is far from being a side issue. It is central not just to understanding Him, but to understanding ourselves. What shall we be for all eternity? Shall we be God's Friends, fulfilling all that God ever intended us to be? Or shall we be His foes for ever, frustrated and full of hatred for God, ourselves and everything around us?

Put like that, we might think "Of course I don't want to be God's enemy for ever! No doubt about it, I want to go to heaven." Yet it's not as simple as that. Think carefully about Our Lord's words in the Gospel: "*Come, you whom my Father has blessed. Take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food...*" In other words, whenever we put ourselves out to help anyone in any kind of need, when we sacrifice our own liberty, time, expertise and property to come to the help of the helpless, we are really doing it to Christ. He, the King, identifies Himself totally with the poor, the despised, the suffering, the helpless. He gives us the chance to show that we love Him by loving those whom the world despises.

Love means more than good will. St. James tells us in his epistle: "*If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that?*" (James 2:14-16) Love is costly. Look what it cost Our Lord. That is what we need to remember and to do if we wish to enter heaven.

Practical love means more than affection. "*If you love only those who love you, what thanks can you expect?*" says Our Lord (Mt 5:46). We cannot expect to be able to get to heaven if we have only shown love to those whom we get on with, or find it easy to like.

While this life lasts, and *only* while it lasts, we have so many opportunities to do good to others. As St. Paul says: "*We must never tire of doing good because if we do not give up the struggle we shall get our harvest at the proper time. While we have the chance, we must do good to all...*" (Galatians 6:9-10) Even so, there are certain priorities we must observe. As St. Paul goes on to make clear: "*...we must do good to all, and especially to our brothers in the faith.*" This means that while we should be charitable to all in need, we have a *particular duty to those of our own faith* who are in great need. This is why we at the Oratory have always given such strong support to "*Aid to the Church in Need*", that wonderful organisation which gives both spiritual and material assistance to Catholics throughout the world who are deprived of food, clothing, shelter, work, places of worship and even life itself on account of their faithfulness to Christ. As St. Paul makes clear, we owe a special debt of charity to those Catholics who suffer in ways that we do not, so that by their grateful prayers, we may be given graces which they enjoy, and so often we in the rich West do not.

Sunday November 23rd: The Solemnity of Christ the King (*White*)

- 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*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

THIRTY FOURTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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

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 November 24th: FERIA. St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Martyrs. Memoria. (Red)

- **Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8.00 p.m.**

St Andrew Dung-Lac & Comps (16th-19th Cents.) Born in Vietnam in 1785, and martyred for the Faith in 1839, he was canonised by Pope John Paul II in 1988, together with 95 other native Vietnamese and 21 missionaries from Spain and France. We commemorate today over 300,000 Catholics, martyred in Vietnam since the 16th century.

Tuesday November 25th: FERIA. (Green). Optional memoria of St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin Martyr. (Red).

- **Benediction at 8.00 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction. New members welcome.

St Catherine of Alexandria (4th c.) Little is known of St Catherine. Tradition has it that she was born into a noble family in Alexandria and became a convert. Her wisdom and knowledge led to the conversion of many, including pagan philosophers, and for this reason she is honoured as the patron of philosophers and preachers. She was martyred on a spiked wheel, the original *Catherine Wheel*. Legend has it that after her death, angels brought her body from Alexandria to the monastery named after her at Sinai.

Wednesday November 26th: FERIA. (Green)

Thursday November 27th: FERIA. (Green)

Friday November 28th: FERIA. (Green)

- **Novena before the Immaculate Conception at 8 p.m.**

Saturday November 29th: Our Lady on Saturday. Memoria. (White); or FERIA. (Green)

- **Mass 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**
- **Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of Sunday: The First Sunday of Advent, at 5.45 p.m.**

The following are requested to read next weekend, November 29th/30th The First Sunday of Advent:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan
Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Denis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Sunday November 30th: The First Sunday of Advent (Purple)

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: Fr Cownley, Andrew Reddy, Kathleen Devere, Leah Lansbury, Olive d'Silva, Bridget Shields, Kim Potter, Maurice Hynes, Carole Halls, Margaret Casey and Frank McGuinness.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Angela Taylor; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Edmund Hodgson and Fr Joseph du Moulin-Browne, both of this Oratory, Fr Roland Gierak, Jessie Jones, Blaise Rosario, Rose & Arthur Plant, Nellie & George Butler, Nancie Owen, George Heron, Angela Pearson, Esther Devere, Cecily Moody, Mollie Singleton, David Harnett and Jim McCoy.

Angela Taylor's funeral is at 12.45 p.m. on Tuesday. Reception of remains at 4.30 p.m. on Monday.

Collections:

Thirty-third Sunday, 16th November:

Offertory: £1,510

Second: DDF: £427

Thank you

TODAY

The **SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND** is for the Catholic Youth Service.

The **PIETY STALL** is open after all Sunday Masses. It has a large selection of *Advent calendars and Advent Wreaths, Christmas cards, gifts, calendars, diaries etc. including goods being sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need.*, in addition to the usual stock and a wide selection of books.

The **ORATORY CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW: Books of tickets are now available at the doors of the church.** Please take and sell as many as you can. (Tickets : £1 per book or 20p each). There will be several prizes, in addition to the first prize of £500, and other cash prizes. Please return money and ticket stubs to the Oratory House, or at the sacristy, preferably in an envelope marked 'Prize Draw'.

'**WALK WITH ME**' Archbishop Vincent Nichols's new edition book of prayer and meditations for Advent is available at the back of the church. The book is priced at £1 and the Calendars to accompany the book are 30p. Please buy extra copies for friends and relatives, especially those who are housebound.

ORATORY PATRICIANS meet at 3.15 p.m. in the Oratory House. The subject will be: "The Church and Politics Today". All are welcome.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m.

NOVENA BEFORE THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, our Patronal Feast, commences on Friday at 8 p.m. (following the Rosary at 7.45 p.m.). Please come and join our prayers to ask for Our Lady's intercession for our Parish and Community.

Our ADVENT TALKS this year will start a series on St Paul and his teachings, which will continue after Christmas up until Passiontide They will be held on Saturdays in the Lower Cloister hall at 11.30 a.m. The first will be this coming Saturday, 29th, on the subject of **"The Life and Character of St Paul"**

MARYVALE ADVENT RETREAT: Saturday from 10.30-4.40 p.m. will be led by Fr John Redford. The day will include talks, Adoration and Mass. Cost for the day: £9. To book, please telephone 360 8118, or 325 2414, or email: bridgettines@maryvale.ac.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL; many of you will be already making plans for your Christmas and New Year celebrations. Why not consider seeing in the New Year with Our Lord? Exposition will be from 9.30 p.m. with prayers (as requested by Our Lady of Fatima) for World peace, the conversion of sinners and in reparation for the sins against her Immaculate Heart. Mass of the Solemnity of the Mother of God (January 1st) will be at 11.45 p.m. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

YEAR OF ST PAUL PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA: Organised by Moseley Travel: 7th—14th February 2009 to mark the Feast of St Paul's arrival on the island, which is celebrated on February 10th. Travelling from Birmingham, the total cost is £395, including half-board in a 4* hotel in Qawra. If anyone is interested in this pilgrimage, please contact Fr Paul.

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS STAMPS: This Christmas the Post Office are to issue both secular stamps and Religious stamps; but just like last year, you have to stipulate if you want Religious stamps. Each Post Office has been asked to send in to HQ the totals for each (possibly to say that there is no demand for the latter!) **So please ask for Religious stamps in order to keep Our Lord at the centre of the event.**

READERS AT MASS NEEDED: *We are always looking for more readers at all Sunday Masses, but in particular there is only one reader on the rota for the 12.00 p.m. Sunday Mass Please jot down your name, address or email, and telephone number and give to one of the Fathers, or to the Oratory House addressed to Fr Guy, if you are willing to volunteer to read at this Mass, or any of the other Masses. Many thanks.*