

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.

November 8th 2009: THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY & REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



THE WIDOW'S MITE

The value of something is not necessarily the same as its price. In the Gospel Our Lord impresses upon us the truth that the real value of the Widow's offering to the Temple was far greater than the tiny sum of "a mite" (one penny) which was its price. Our Lord commented on the fact that wealthy people were putting much larger sums into the treasury, but those sums represented what we would call their "disposable income", whereas the widow's penny represented all she had to live on. In other words, it was a real sacrifice she made. Anyone counting that collection will hardly have noticed a single penny, but Our Lord says that the widow's generosity and conscientiousness surpasses that of the rich who probably didn't even notice the poor woman anyway.

That leads us to the question: What is the value of what we give to God? Our Lord doesn't disdain any gift given with a good and generous heart. There are so many people who are indeed generous like that. Not a few of them are quite wealthy and give generously. Yet what some people give may still amount to "small change" from a week's income.

Curiously enough, however, it is often the less well-off who are the most generous to God. Moreover, not only do many poorer people give to a greater value than many of their wealthy neighbours, but can even put the rich to shame in the amount that they give! For example, we have asked several years running for money donations to fund the Cash Prizes for the Epiphany Draw. Look on the bottom of the other page and you will find an appeal for contributions to this year's Prizes. We are indeed very grateful for the generosity of those who have already helped this year, and would like to renew our gratitude to the kind

benefactors who have so generously given large sums of money in previous years. It is interesting to note how few of these truly generous persons would pass for "wealthy" in this world's sense, yet they are the ones who have responded most readily and with inspiring generosity!

So, anybody who is reading this and who is relatively well-off, please ask yourself whether you cannot easily afford to offer us a little extra financial assistance so that we do not need to eat further into our funds to pay for those prizes! In the recent weekday Gospels Our Lord has spoken to us about the importance of using money, which He calls "that tainted thing", to win friends who will support us in our journey to the next life. As it is wisely said, "there are no pockets in shrouds!", which is, of course, another way of saying: "You can't take it with you when you die!"

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the last day of the Plenary Indulgences that the Church encourages us to gain in the first week of November in supplication for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed. To do this, we have to receive Holy Communion, having been to confession recently before, or even soon afterwards, as long as we are in a state of grace at the time of our Communion, and praying an Our Father and a Hail Mary just once for the intentions of the Pope.

Someone recently asked what on earth are they supposed to do during the two minutes' silence on Remembrance Sunday and at 11 a.m. on the 11th of November. The answer is simple: PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF ALL THOSE KILLED IN WAR. They don't need our admiration, they only need our prayers.



Sunday November 8th: Thirty-Second Sunday (Green)

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal*
- 10.30 a.m. *SOLEMN REQUIEM FOR THOSE KILLED IN WAR*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Vespers and Benediction*

THIRTY-SECOND WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 4

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Fridays in November: Stations of the Cross for the Holy Souls at 8 p.m.

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 9th November: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (White)

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

The Lateran Basilica is the Cathedral church of Rome (not St Peter's). The inscription on the façade reads "Mother and Head of all the churches in the City (i.e. Rome) and the World". Today is a feast of Our Lord as His Body, the Church, is symbolised by this great building.

Tuesday 10th November: St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

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

St Leo the Great (d. 461) A man of great ability, he profoundly influenced the course of the Church with the Declaration that Our Lord's two natures, His divinity and His manhood, are united inseparably, yet unmixed. Pope Leo also did much to broker peace, personally confronting Attila the Hun and persuading him not to destroy Rome.

Wednesday 11th November: St Martin of Tours, Bishop. Memoria. (White)

St Martin of Tours (c. 316-97) He was an officer in the Hungarian army and met a beggar to whom he gave half his cloak. Later he had a vision of Our Lord wearing it and so sought baptism and became a priest. With the help of St Hilary, he founded the first monastery in Western Europe and was appointed Bishop of Tours, remaining a monk. He was the first non-martyr with an annual feast in the Western Church.

Thursday 12th November: St Josaphat, Bishop. Memoria. (White)

St Josaphat of Polotsk was raised an Ukranian Orthodox but became a monk in the Ruthenian rite, which was united with Rome. As Bishop, he worked hard for the whole of the Orthodox Church to be re-united under the authority of the Pope, but the opposition to his work in the Eastern Church led to his martyrdom.

Friday 13th November: Feria. (Green)

- **Stations of Cross for the Holy Souls at 8 p.m.**

Saturday 14th November: Our Lady on Saturday, (White); or Feria. (Green); or Optional memoria of St Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (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 & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Albert the Great (c. 1200-80) Known as "the Great" due to his extraordinary intellect and knowledge of a very wide range of subjects, was a German Dominican who became Bishop of Regensburg. St Thomas Aquinas was one of his students.

November 15th: The Thirty-third Sunday. (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 in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Franco Muro, Imelda Martinez, Richard Wheatley, John Murphy, Anne MacWilliams, Ray Colquhoun, May Roebuck, Paul Beesley, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, David Pritchard, Teilo Hidden, James Foynes and Carolyn Knight

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr John Cook of this Oratory, Tommy Logan, Cicely Moody, Susan Donovan, Sean O'Driscoll and Kathleen Cunningham.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, November 14th/15th, Thirty-third Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

Feast of All Saints: 1st November, 2009
Offertory: £1,339
Second: The Johnson Fund: £830

Thank you

TODAY

The Second Collection today will be for the expenses of the music in our Church.

HOLY SOULS: Papers are to be found at the doors of the church for you to list the names of the dead for whom you wish prayers to be offered during this month of the Holy Souls. Please then put your list in the special box at the Holy Souls' Altar (on the left hand-side of the church) *Please do not put money in the box. Money for Masses must be given in at the Sacristy door, or on weekdays at the Oratory House.*

THIS WEEK

DEACON SULLIVAN, the man cured through Cardinal Newman's intercession will be deacon at the 12.45 p.m. Mass on Wednesday. There will be an opportunity to meet him briefly afterwards in the Lower Cloister Hall.

ADORATION AT REDNAL with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Wednesday, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.40 p.m.

NOVEMBER: STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Fridays at 8 p.m. for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

UCM ANNUAL REQUIEM is on Tuesday 10th at 10.30 a.m.

ST PHILIP'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL & VITH FORM COLLEGE ANNUAL REQUIEM is on Saturday 14th November at 11 a.m.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A TALK ON FATIMA and the vital importance of its message for today's world will be given by Donal Foley after the 11 a.m. Mass on Saturday, 21st November, in the Lower Cloister Hall.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB will meet on Friday 20th November from 12-2 to discuss Donal Foley's book "Understanding Medjugorje". A new group: **St Gianna Molla Institute for the Preservation of the Catholic Faith** will meet on Thursday 19th November from 7-9 p.m. in Edgbaston (and thereafter monthly). The group has been formed in response to Eric Hester's meeting with Bishop McMahon. All are welcome. Contact Jackie Parkes on 688 4154 for details of both these meetings.

FRIENDS OF THE POOR CLARES, BADDESLEY CLINTON QUIZ NIGHT will take place at 7 p.m. on 21st November at the Village Hall, Chadwick end. Please see poster for details.

OSCOTT COLLEGE 10TH PUBLIC LECTURE will be held on Tuesday 24th at 8 p.m. will be given by Professor Anne Duggan, a leading authority on St Thomas Becket. Tickets are not required. Please see poster for details.

NOTICES

The PIETY STALL is open after Saturday 11 a.m. and 5.45 p.m. Masses and all Sunday Masses. **Advent Calendars, Advent wreaths, Cribbs, Christmas cards, diaries, DVDs, books etc for children and other Christmas and gift items are on sale**, including those we are selling on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need. **together with books, DVDs, Rosaries, statues etc. and Gift Vouchers.**

EPIPHANY PRIZE DRAW: Books of Tickets are now available at the doors of the church. Please take and sell as many as you can. (£1 per book or 20p per ticket). Please return ticket stubs and money *in an envelope marked 'prize draw'* to the Oratory house or to one of the Fathers. Many thanks to the kind persons who have donated a total of £60. The 1st prize will be £500 and a 2nd of £100 so further donations of cash would be appreciated. *Please address to Fr Guy.*

YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

The Curé of Ars was very humble, yet as a priest he was conscious of being an immense gift to his people: "A good shepherd, a pastor after God's heart, is the greatest treasure which the good Lord can grant to a parish, and one of the most precious gifts of divine mercy". He spoke of the priesthood as if incapable of fathoming the grandeur of the gift and task entrusted to a human creature: "O, how great is the priest! ... If he realized what he is, he would die... God obeys him: he utters a few words and the Lord descends from heaven at his voice, to be contained within a small host...".