

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.

August 17th 2008: THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



MY HOUSE WILL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER

These words, which come at the end of today's first reading, may seem familiar, though at first you may possibly not realise *why* they are so familiar to us! If you look over the Altar, under the mosaic of Our Lady's Crowning (which also happens to be next Friday's feast), you will see this text written there, but you may not recognise it because it is written in Latin: "*Domus mea domus orationis vocabitur*".

The Prophet Isaiah, from whom these words are taken, continues the phrase: "*My House will be called a House of prayer for all peoples*". It is that final point which is significant today. On the one hand, we are familiar with the first part of the text

because it describes the meaning and purpose of the name: "The Oratory" - the House of Prayer. The importance of those final words will be brought out in the Gospel reading, when Our Lord heals a pagan woman's daughter. In Old Testament times, the people of Israel believed that Almighty God had chosen them to be His own people to the exclusion of everybody else in the world, the "Gentiles". Indeed, this is not altogether untrue. The Jews were indeed God's chosen people, and in a sense they still are. Yet God also revealed to them in a gradual way that He wished the Jews to be the people through whom all the nations of the world would one day come to know Him. So the Prophet Isaiah tells the Jewish people that foreigners who live in their midst and have willingly and freely adopted the religion of the Jews, worshipping the One True God, shall "find joy in God's house of prayer".

The Gospel at first seems to be a contradiction of this universal message. Our Lord is approached by a pagan woman. She has heard of His power over Satan and begs Him to drive the devil out of her daughter. Our Lord's reaction seems strange to us. At first He ignores her, saying that He has "*been sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel*", meaning that His work is only among the Jews. However, the woman is persistent, and comes to kneel at His feet. Then at last He speaks to her, saying that "*it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house dogs*". This seems very remote indeed from the image that we usually have of Our Lord as kind and accepting of all who approach Him. Yet it is not unique. Elsewhere, too, Our Lord stresses that He has come to save His own people, the Jews, God's chosen race, to the exclusion of pagans.

Nobody would be surprised if the woman took Our Lord's reply as a great insult. It is hardly flattering to be referred to, at least implicitly, as a house-dog! Yet the woman not only refuses to accept this as a snub, she even manages to turn it round into another prayer: "*Yes, Sir! But even the dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the Master's table*" She accepts her status, but still hopes that she will be granted just a little response to her prayer. Our Lord responds: "*Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted!*" Is this a case of sheer dogged persistence being rewarded—of her determination wearing Our Lord's resistance down—as in His own parable of the widow and the unjust judge, who eventually grants the widow's desire if only to stop her nagging him? We could read this event in that way, but it would not be fair either to Our Lord or to the woman. The point is faith. Our Lord does not want to be seen as a "miracle worker". He is the Saviour. His miracles are not simply to be marvelled at like some magic trick, nor are they merely acts of philanthropy or general kindness on His part. Our Lord's miracles are works of faith and salvation. They are both *responses to faith*, and at the same time designed to *build up faith*. In this instance the pagan woman shows she has exactly the kind of faith that Our Lord is seeking from His own people, and He will look for, and find again, in other pagans. These, too, will one day enter fully into His church.

Sunday August 17th: The Twentieth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 4

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *1962 rite Mass (in the church)*
- 10.30 a.m. *High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Low Mass (during August)*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

TWENTIETH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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 August 18th: Feria. (Green).

Tuesday August 19th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St. John Eudes, Priest (white)

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

St John Eudes (1601-1679) A priest of the French Oratory for twenty years, he was known as a missionary and for his caring for the sick during two plague epidemics. He left the Oratory to found the Sisterhood of Our Lady of Charity to care for prostitutes. Shortly afterwards he also founded the Society of Jesus and Mary (the *Eudist* Fathers), to run seminaries. He was also instrumental in bringing about an increase in devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Wednesday August 20th: St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church. Memoria (white)

St Bernard (1090-1153) was a nobleman of Burgundy, now part of France. Together with several friends he joined the recently founded and very austere Benedictine monastery of Citeaux (the first "Cistercian" Abbey) at that time under the rule of a great English abbot, St. Stephen Harding. Blessed with leadership qualities, Bernard was soon sent to found a daughter house at Clairvaux where he remained as Abbot until his death. His holiness and personal qualities attracted many followers. He was a powerful preacher and man of wisdom and judgment, whose counsel was frequently sought after by several Popes and kings.

Thursday August 21st: St Pius X, Pope. Memoria (White).

St Pius X (1835-1914) born Giuseppe Sarto, he was a zealous priest and bishop in Northern Italy before being elected Pope in 1904. He dedicated his papacy to the reform of the liturgy, especially the revival of Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony, aiming to bring about greater understanding of, and participation in, the Mass by the faithful. He also encouraged the reception of the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion by young children and was energetic in tackling false tendencies in theology which are generally known all together as "Modernism" - the common character of which was to subject the mysteries of the Faith to rational criticism and to insist on the necessity of altering the Faith to fit the modern world. St. Pius was known to work miracles and was regarded in his own lifetime as a saint.

Friday August 22nd: The Quænship of Our Lady. Memoria. (White) St. John Kemble, Priest and Martyr

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

The feast of Our Lady's Queenship, celebrated on the Octave Day of Our Lady's Assumption into heaven, commemorates her crowning by the hand of her divine Son and Saviour, as so beautifully pictured in the mosaic in the apse of our Sanctuary.

St. John Kemble was a priest in Herefordshire for 54 years and was over 80 when he was arrested during the Titus Oates scare. (see tomorrow's entry for St. John Wall). On the scaffold he said: "I die only for professing the old Roman Catholic religion. Which first made this kingdom Christian, and whoever may be saved must die therein."

Saturday August 23rd: St. John Wall, Priest and Martyr. Feast. (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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of Sunday: Twenty-first Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

St John Wall (1619-1679) was born in Lancashire of an old Catholic family. On account of the penal laws he went abroad to France and joined the Franciscans, being ordained priest at Douai in 1632. He returned to England and worked for twenty-five years in Worcestershire, being based at Harvington Hall. He was eventually denounced in the infamous "Titus Oates plot", maliciously concocted by Oates to discredit Catholics before the Catholic Prince James (James II) could succeed to his brother Charles II's throne. Many holy priests and laymen were thus falsely accused of plotting to kill King Charles and put to death. St. John was captured at Harvington, and hanged, drawn and quartered in Worcester.

Sunday August 24th : The Twenty-first 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. Low Mass**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Sr Anne of the Holy Spirit D.C., Thelma Havelin, Vincenzo Kiliberto, Marion Arnott-Job, Evelyn Arrigho, Frank McGuinness, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey and Marie-Therese Jones.

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: Philip Holland, Anne Grimes, Frank Howe, Marion Cole and Reg Jenkins.

George Thorpe's funeral is on Tuesday at 12.45. Reception of remains before Mass.

The following are requested to read next weekend, August 23rd/24th: Twentieth Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Morag Marinoni
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m. Peter Leather
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections

19th Sunday of the Year, 10th August:
Offertory: £1,471
Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £436
11th August: Newman Cause: £556

Many thanks

TODAY

The Second Collection this weekend is for D D Fund

GOBS PILGRIMAGE CYCLE RIDE: Many of you who supported the Cloister sale we had a few weeks ago also sponsored a fund-raising cycle ride to Walsingham. The ride has now been successfully completed, and the sponsorship monies are being collected this weekend and next in the cloisters.

ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY at Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire, takes place today, commencing with Mass at 3.00 p.m. Please see the poster on the Notice Board in the Cloisters, which gives full details.

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall.

N.B. The Sunday 5.30 Mass will not be sung for the whole of August.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL may take place this week on Wednesday. Please ring the Oratory on Wednesday to find out if this will be held as usual. If so, the Mass will be at 2.30 p.m, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

FRIDAY is the Memoria of the Coronation of our Lady. Some years ago the Fathers made a vow to celebrate Solemn Benediction on this feast in thanksgiving for our Lady's protection in times of trouble, and to obtain her continuing help and intercession on our behalf. We invite you to join us in this act of devotion to the Mother of God on Friday at 8 p.m.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON HALL in honour of St. John Wall and the English Martyrs, takes place on Sunday, August 31st. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m. by Bishop Kenney. Tours of the Hall can be made by prior arrangement, by telephoning 01562 777846. Tea is available after Mass. N.B. **Bring your own chairs if needed.**

MARYVALE INSTITUTE offers three courses (which can be taken in distance-learning mode) for all adults. The **Certificate in Catechesis** is for anyone interested in developing their faith for the sake of explaining it to others; The **Certificate in New Testament Studies** is to help to gain most from reading the bible; and the **Certificate in Studies in the Catechism** will enliven your faith. For more information visit www.maryvale.ac.uk