

# 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 4th 2007: The Thirty-first Sunday of the Year



### A CHEAT WELCOMES JESUS INTO HIS HOME

In today's Gospel Our Lord visits the city of Jericho where a man called Zacchaeus is one of the wealthiest citizens, having made a killing out of the tax franchise. He has obtained this monopoly from the Romans (possibly by means of a bribe) for collecting taxes from his own people, and is allowed by the Romans to take his "cut" before sending the due sums on to them. No wonder the people hate him! He is a collaborator and a greedy one! He is also a small man and he is at a disadvantage in a crowd. If he is going to catch a glimpse of this famous Jesus of Nazareth, he needs to get a vantage point. So he climbs a tree. When Jesus passes by, to Zacchaeus's amazement He calls out to him: "Zacchaeus, hurry, come down! For it is at your house that I am going to stay today!" The townsfolk are scandalised that Jesus should openly consort with a quisling who has cheated them all. Yet it is Zacchaeus's reaction that is most amazing, for he tells our Lord that he will give half his property to the poor and return four-fold to his victims anything he has got from them dishonestly.

How does this come about? Most probably because Zacchaeus realises, maybe for the first time in his life, that he is *wanted*. Here is a good man who actually dares to invite Himself to his house! He has taken refuge in money and has indulged his greed so as to make himself hated. But here is a man who shows love for him in such a way that Zacchaeus is happy to give away his vast wealth in order to justify Our Lord's love for him. We should respond in a similar way when God forgives our sins. What a gift, and how little we deserve it! But just because we don't deserve it, and can never lay claim to it only makes God's forgiveness all the more remarkable and wonderful!

### "INDULGENCES FOR THE DEAD?" HAVEN'T WE DROPPED ALL THAT?

Praying for the souls of the dead belongs to the heart of our faith. It is an expression of our solidarity in love with our brothers and sisters who have departed this life, saved, but not quite ready to live in God's presence yet. For how can we sinners bear to face the all-holy God who looks so lovingly upon us? Will we not melt with sheer grief and shame at the thought of all our horrible past sins and offences and how they have crucified our loving Saviour?

Purgatory is the name we give to that state of preparation for heaven. The souls who undergo it are already "holy" insofar as they are saved from damnation. Yet they still benefit from our prayers for them. They are helpless to change themselves, because they are now *expiating* their past sins, that is, *making amends* for them and so being set free from all the harm that sin has done to us, unless we have *both* been forgiven *and* have made amends (expiated them) in this life.

We can pray for each other in this life. The saints in heaven can pray for us. All this is possible because of God's love and our solidarity as human beings. "The life and death of each of us has an influence on others" says St. Paul. And although Our Lord alone has won our salvation, yet by God's Providence we must still "work out our salvation in fear and trembling" as St. Paul puts it. This means that we can, and should, care for and assist others in their journey towards heaven. The final purification is part of that journey and we can help those souls going through that last stage by our prayers and sacrifices.

The Church invites us, in a spirit of love and solidarity, to make just such a special offering on All Souls' Day, 2nd November. This is the Plenary (full) Indulgence which we can offer up to God in supplication for those suffering in expiation for their past sins, to help them do so more speedily, more effectively. But we can also gain other indulgences—offerings of self-sacrifice and prayer which we join to Christ's offering either for ourselves or for the souls in purgatory. For instance, you can visit a cemetery any day between 2nd and 9th November and pray for the dead in order to get an Indulgence for them. Here at the Oratory we also pray the Stations of the Cross on all Friday evenings in November as our own sharing in the sacrifice of Christ which has won our salvation. We ask our Lord that our sacrifice in coming out to Church that evening may help the souls in Purgatory to expiate their past sins. So please do make an effort for the poor Holy Souls this month.

### Sunday November 4th: The 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green)

Year 3 or C of the Lectionary at Mass

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 10.30 a.m. *High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 12.45 p.m. *Tridentine Mass (in the Cloister Chapel)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- *Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m.*

### The THIRTY-FIRST WEEK OF THE YEAR: 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.

Stations of the Cross: 8 pm. Fridays in November

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

**Monday November 5th: Feria.** (Green).

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

**Tuesday November 6th: Feria.** (Green).

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Devotions

**Wednesday November 7th: Feria.** (Green). *Optional memoria of St Willibrord, Bishop.* (White)

**St Willibrord** (c.658-739) Born in Northumberland, he studied at Rippon and then at a monastery in Ireland where he was ordained and trained as a missionary. In 690, he went to Friesland, now part of the Netherlands, and six years later, he was appointed Archbishop to the Frisians with his see at Utrecht. He founded a monastery in Echternach, Luxembourg which he utilised to extend missionary work into Denmark and Upper Friesland. He experienced great opposition from the pagans, nearly losing his life on occasions, but was a very effective missionary. He was renowned for his devotion, joyfulness and holiness.

**Thursday November 8th: Feria.** (Green). *Optional memoria of Bl George Napper, Priest & English Martyr.* (Red)

**Bl George Napper** (d.1610) Born and educated at Oxford, he was imprisoned for nine years as a recusant, then 'conformed' i.e. he gave up his faith for Protestantism. But he repented and became a priest at Douay. On his return to England, he ministered with great success without being discovered for seven years. At the time of his arrest he was carrying the Blessed Sacrament and was terrified of sacrilegious acts if his pyx were discovered, but despite a thorough search in which the smallest items, including a thimble, he was carrying were found, his pyx (and a small reliquary) were not. He was executed at Oxford on Friday, 9th November having said Mass, served by a friend.

**Friday November 9th: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica.** *Feast of Our Lord* (White)

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

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

**Saturday November 10th: St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church** (White)

- **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 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **Vigil Mass of the THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR at 5.45 p.m.**

**St Leo the Great** (d. 461) A man of great ability, he profoundly influenced the course of the Church with his famous clarification of Our Lord's Person: His Divinity and manhood inseparably united, yet unmixed. Pope Leo was a man of great eloquence and did much to broker peace. He met with Attila the Hun, at the gates of Rome and persuaded him to turn back, and when the Vandals under Genseric occupied the city of Rome, he persuaded the invaders to desist from pillaging the city and harming its inhabitants. He died in 461, leaving many letters and writings of great historical importance.

**Sunday November 11th: The THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR** (Green)

**Remembrance Sunday**

**Mass Times:**

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn Requiem for those killed in war**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **12.45 p.m. Latin Mass 1962 Missal (in the Cloister Chapel)**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass in English**
- **Vespers and Benediction: 7.30**

**Please pray for the sick:** Margaret Casey, Elaine Roberts, Janina Stolarewicz, Frank McGuinness, Joan Murphy, Jacqueline Griffiths, Miles Drew, Carole Halls, Margaret Corbett, Desmond Williams, Elizabeth Snape, Mary Mackay, John McCann, Kerry Mooney and Emma Wilson. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville, Revd Paul Grosvenor, Edward Snape and Joan Short; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Vincent Blehl, Mary Boswell, Alice Milton, Michael & Margaret Brennan, Elsie Chambers and Bertie & Nancy Ahern.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, November 10/11th, the Thirty-second Sunday**

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck

Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin

12.00 p.m.: Peter Leather

5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

**Collections:**

*Thirtieth Sunday, 28th October:*

Offertory: £1,436 Second: The Johnson Fund: £774

*All Saints Day, 1st November:*

Offertory: £454 Second: Church maintenance £626

*Thank you*

**The Second Collection today will be for the Church in China (see the Notice below)**

**Next week's Second Collection will be for the DDF**

### TODAY

**The CHURCH IN CHINA:** Fr Eamonn O'Brien will make an appeal at all Masses for CEC (Cultural Exchange with China) whose main funds are used for training Church personnel, priests, nuns and laity and it also sponsors students for long-term studies in the UK. It is hoping to raise the funds to build a monastery and help a contemplative community of religious sisters.

**HOLY SOULS' ENVELOPES** are at the doors of the church for you to place the names of the dead for whom you wish prayers to be offered during November, the month of the Holy Souls. Please put the envelopes in the box at the Holy Souls' altar (left hand side of the church) **but please do not put money in them.** **THEY ARE NOT FOR MASS OFFERINGS.**

**40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABORTION ACT: A Memorial Concert will take place this Thursday, 8th November, at 7.45 p.m. Tickets £5 are available after Mass.** They can also be obtained from Jim Caffrey on 733 7924. Please see poster for more details of the concert. **Please do your best to support this. The proceeds are for a good cause!**

**PIETY STALL: A beautiful selection of Christmas cards from Aid to the Church in Need,** and others, together with cribs, advent calendars, calendars, diaries, children's Christmas books, etc now on sale.

### THIS WEEK

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS for the Holy Souls take place on Fridays in November at 8 p.m.** after the Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will take place on Wednesday beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Please continue to pray for the protection of Rednal both from vandalism and from our uncaring city bureaucracy.

**ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS/ carers:** The series of short talks continues on Monday The subject this week is 'The Holy Souls and Praying for the Dead'.

**FATHER HUDSON'S SOCIETY & FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION:** This week is National Adoption Week and Fr Hudson's' is holding Coffee Mornings to promote adoption and the work of the agency. The events nearest to us are at The Old Market Hall, Coleshill on Tuesday, and at St Martins in the Bull Ring on Thursday. Both events are from 10-12.30 a.m. If you are interested in adoption and you cannot attend either of these, Fr Hudson's social workers would be delighted to hear from you. See poster for more details.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**ST PHILIP'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION:** The annual requiem is on Monday 12th November at 8 p.m.

**UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS :** the annual Requiem is on Tuesday 13th November at 9.30 a.m.

### NOTICES

**NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL:** making plans for New Year's Eve? Why not consider seeing in the New Year with Our Lord? Exposition 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 will be at 11.45 p.m. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

**THE HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS** meet at the back of Church every Saturday after the 8 a.m. Mass to go and pray outside the Calthorpe Clinic on Arthur Road. Their witness is of great importance outside one of the busiest death-factories in the country.