

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.

September 28th 2008: THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



THE TWO BROTHERS

Our Lord told more than one parable about two brothers. The most famous is the "Prodigal Son", but today's Gospel reading is another one in which Our Lord contrasts the behaviour and attitudes of two sons towards their Father, who asks them both to work in his vineyard. The first says "No", but then changes his mind and goes off to obey his father, whereas the second says "Yes" but simply does not go. Our Lord's question to the Chief Priests and Elders of the Jewish people is: "Which of the brothers *did* his father's will?" Our Lord's point in telling this parable is that it is useless to say you will do God's will if you really ignore it. This is what the Chief Priests are doing: paying lip-service to God, but actually disobeying His will. How? Because they do not truly love God in humility and self-sacrifice. They heard John the Baptist calling them to repentance but dismissed it as not intended for them. As far as they were concerned, they were already doing God's will. On the other hand, Our Lord points out, there are some people who begin by disobeying God, but who end up actually doing His will after all, such as the tax-collectors and prostitutes who listened to John the Baptist's call to repentance and knew that it was intended for them, so they obeyed it.

ST. PAUL TEACHES

Today we have a Pastoral Letter from His Grace the Archbishop on "*St. Paul, Witness to the Resurrection*". Copies are available at the Church doors. St. Paul's foundational experience of Christ was on the road to Damascus, where the risen and glorified Lord appeared to him. This experience not only converted him to faith in Christ, but also shaped his whole mind in the faith that those who die in Christ are, like Christ, called to future resurrection. Yes, death will sever our bodies from our souls, but not for ever. That is why, to use St. Paul's phrase, we respect our bodies as "*Temples of the Holy Spirit*" (1 Cor: 6:19). St. Paul's entire moral philosophy of the human body is based on this understanding. Our bodies, like our souls, are sacred and belong to God before even they belong to us. This is why St. Paul also says to the Corinthians, "*We will have one day to appear before the Judgement Seat of Christ to give an account of all we have done in the body*" (2 Cor 5:10).

From this teaching of St. Paul we can draw the inference that bodily morality matters. We can also understand that our future destiny is not as disembodied spirits, nor as different persons from those who we now are. Not only will we personally survive, but we will rise again either to eternal life or to eternal death, depending on what we have done in the body in this present life. Hence the importance of defending the truth of the Church's teaching about human life and morality which has been handed down to us from Christ through His great Apostle, St. Paul. The Church's teaching is not simply a matter of opinion, and intended only for Catholics. It is the truth revealed by God about all men and women created in His divine image. This truth also embraces the *generation* of human life, as well as the sacredness of human life at every stage from conception to natural death.

As many of you may know, Birmingham is the location of the Conservative Party Annual Conference this week, and on Tuesday lunchtime here at the Oratory we are hosting a very important fringe meeting from that Conference, organised by "*Cornerstone*", a group of Conservative MP's. The meeting is on "*Abortion, and the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill*". Although the meeting is being addressed by Edward Leigh, MP, a Catholic, pro-life Conservative MP, "*Cornerstone*" is not explicitly a pro-life movement. Moreover, one of the other speakers is Nadine Dorries MP, who, according to Phyllis Bowman of **Right to Life**, "*is quite open about the fact that she is not pro-life. However, she has fought very strongly to lower the upper time-limit for social abortions and has done more than any other individual to publicise the scandal of late terminations*". Details of the meeting are carried overleaf. Please make a special effort to attend despite the inconvenience of the time. This is such an important issue for our times, **and one in which we must not only make our voice heard, but be seen to support the opposition to abortion and embryo research in great numbers and in force.** We must bring to the Conservatives' attention the strength of our reasoning against the provisions of the Embryo research Bill and of abortion being now, effectively, available on demand. The Conservatives may form the next Government of this land. Whether or not we support them now, they need to know that we are serious about our voting intentions based on this vital area of policy and that our support (or otherwise) could depend on this fundamental issue of human rights.

Sunday September 28th: The Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year (Green)

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

- 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. **Sung Congregational Mass**
- 7.30 p.m. **Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

TWENTY-SIXTH 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 September 27th: Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels. Feast. (White)

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

The Holy Archangels are celebrated together as the greatest of God's spiritual messengers to men. Michael is the angelic "General" of God's armies "fighting against the assaults of the devil". Gabriel was chosen to bring the greatest message ever to be given to a human person: the Annunciation of the Incarnation to our Lady. Raphael appears only in the Old Testament as God's healer, sent to overcome the evil spirits who brought disease, temptation and bodily affliction to Tobias and his family.

Tuesday September 30th: St Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**
- **Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction**

St Jerome (342-420) a priest and scholar from Dalmatia in modern-day Croatia, he became assistant to Pope Damasus, who commissioned him to revise the entire Latin translation of the Bible, resulting in the compilation of the Vulgate, still the standard Latin version in use.

Wednesday October 1st: St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Religious & Doctor of the Church. (White)

St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) "The Little Flower" was endowed with remarkable grace and knowledge of divine things. She was so anxious to become a Carmelite nun that she personally petitioned Pope Leo XIII to be allowed to enter at the age of 15 years, which he granted. She was nonetheless to live only nine more years. Shortly before her death, at her Superior's command, she wrote a remarkable autobiography which is the foundation of her status as Doctor of the Church, which she was declared to be by Pope John Paul II. In those pages she describes how God revealed to her vocation to be "Love" at the Church's heart.

Thursday October 2nd: The Guardian Angels. Memoria. (White)

The Holy Guardian Angels are mentioned by Our Lord in the Gospel and represent a long Judaeo-Christian theological tradition that God assigns each human person a particular guardian spirit to guide and protect us against the otherwise overwhelming intelligence and malice of the devil and his fallen angels.

Friday October 3rd: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Thomas of Cantilupe, Bishop. (White). Harvest Fast Day for the Needy & Hungry of the World

Sts Thomas of Cantilupe (d. 1282) was a priest and chancellor of Oxford University appointed Bishop of Hereford in 1275. He was loved for his generosity to his flock, but also zealous in dealing with clerical laxity which made him so many powerful enemies that the Archbishop of Canterbury was even prevailed upon to excommunicate him.

Saturday October 4th: St Francis of Assisi, Deacon. (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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of Sunday: The Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

St Francis of Assisi (d. 1226) was a rich young man who renounced his wealth and became a poor man for love of Christ. Others joined him in this new life and formed the "Friars Minor" who preached the love of holy poverty in the Church. He was the first to receive the stigmata.

Sunday October 5th : The Twenty-seventh 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. Sung Congregational Mass in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Sr Anne of the Holy Spirit D.C., Ingeborg Parkes, Kim Potter, Darius Butowski, Mary Houston, Mary Clarkson, Nora Thornton, David Reynolds, Carole Halls, Evelyn Arrigho, Marie-Therese Jones, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey and Frank McGuinness.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Audrey and Peter Hunt;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Laurence Daly, Alfred Boswell, George Milton, Doreen Cotterill, Bernard Faulkner, Ian Wardle and Ellen & Frank Gardner

Marion Arnott-Job's funeral is on Thursday at 12.45. Reception of remains: Wednesday at 4.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read next weekend, October 4th/5th Twenty-seventh Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m. Sr Hilary
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections

Twenty-fifth Sunday, 21st September:
Offertory: £1,450
Second: Fr Hudson's Society: £735
Thank you

Second Collection today is for the DDF

TODAY

CANDLES FOR FORTY HOURS, which will take place from Tuesday, 7th—Thursday 9th October, will be on sale for the next two weekends. Please also remember the Altar Society blue collection box (outside St Charles' chapel at the front of church) for your offerings to buy flowers during this very special time in our calendar.

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall after Mass.

ARCHBISHOP VINCENT NICHOLS is the main speaker at a Service in the Town Hall this evening at 6.30 p.m. which is being organised by the Conservative Christian Fellowship. Please attend this meeting to demonstrate the strength of Christian commitment to ethical issues which arise in Parliament. **ALSO:-**

THIS WEEK

'ABORTION & THE HUMAN EMBRYOLOGY BILL' is the subject of a Cornerstone Fringe Event, at which the speakers will be Edward Leigh M.P. and Nadine Dorries M.P. and the chairman, John Hayes M.P., taking place on Tuesday 30th September at 1.00 p.m. in the Upper Cloister Hall. All are welcome. **PLEASE SUPPORT THIS!**

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place on Wednesday, afternoon commencing with Mass at 2.30, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and ending with Benediction.

ANNUAL NEWMAN PILGRIMAGE TO LITTLEMORE: Saturday 4th

October. Including a tour of the College, Confessions, and Mass. (Celebrant and Preacher: Bishop Kenney), a talk on "Newman and St Paul", and Benediction at the Carmelite Priory at Boar's Hill, Oxford. Tea and coffee will be provided at lunchtime, but you will need to take a packed lunch. Coach leaves the Oratory at 9.00 a.m. and returns at 6.45 p.m. (approx). Cost £20. (Booking forms at the church doors.) **Only 4 places are left on this pilgrimage!**

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION welcomes all former pupils and staff to the 100th Anniversary Annual Mass on Saturday 4th October 2008 at 2.30 p.m. in St. Paul's Convent Chapel, Vernon Road, followed by Tea and the AGM. Contact Anne Russell on 0121 705 4400 for further information.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WORLDWIDE DAY OF PRAYER for peace and to uphold the sacredness of human life takes place on Sunday, 5th October. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2-5 p.m. during which our Rosaries will contribute to the several million being said throughout the world.

NOTICES

APF REDBOX Holders: The year comes to an end on 30th September and *all* boxes will need to be emptied. Please cooperate with your collector who will contact you in due course. *Many thanks.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK by St. John Vianney:

"We must take great care never to do anything before having said our Morning Prayers . . . The Devil once declared . . . that if he could have the first moment of the day, he was sure of all the rest."