

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

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*This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.*

## November 15th 2009: THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY



Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven

### THE SECOND COMING

If you are **not** puzzled by today's Gospel, then read it again carefully! What is our Lord saying? In the passage which comes immediately before the point where today's Gospel reading begins, Our Lord was talking to the Apostles about the destruction of Jerusalem and of the Temple. This is what He refers to by "the time of distress" at the very beginning of today's passage.

This "time of distress", culminating in the sack of Jerusalem, took place as Our Lord had prophesied within a short number of years of His own death. It was in 70 A.D. that Titus, later to be the Roman Emperor, sacked Jerusalem and obliterated the Temple so thoroughly that it has never been rebuilt since. In fact, since there is now an Islamic mosque standing on the site, rebuilding the Jewish Temple would be, to say the very least, highly controversial.

"In those days, after the time of distress", begins Our Lord today. Here He is talking about something that will happen *after* the

destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem—a great cataclysm, or destruction of everything—not just a human event, but one that includes the whole visible cosmos: earth, moon and stars. He doesn't say how long after the destruction of Jerusalem this will take place. In fact, at the end of the reading He says: "As for that day or hour, nobody knows it...not the Son, no one but the Father".

Why does Our Lord, who is the Son of God, say that He does not know something the Father knows? Ancient heretics like Arius, who denied the divinity of Christ, used this text to demonstrate that Christ could not be God if He was ignorant about something that was known by God. Yet though this seems at first a strong argument, it is in reality a mistaken interpretation of Our Lord's meaning.

The mysterious nature of Our Lord's words is to do with the way in which the future is not pre-determined in every detail. God has given human beings the ability to influence the unfolding and outcome of events, even great ones. Some aspects of the future remain obscure because of our free will. By our own choices we can act either to help or to hinder God's cause in the world. Of course, in the end God is supreme. His Will shall prevail over all things in the end. Yet in this time between Our Lord's first coming and the end of the world, God deliberately allows all mankind to play a real part in the progress of history towards its final end, which is the Second Coming of the Son of God and the Last Judgement. Our Lord, thinking and speaking as true man, says that there are things which cannot *humanly* be known before they happen, since the free will of human beings as yet unborn will be a factor in their shaping. God's own knowledge of things yet to come is beyond the power of any human mind to know or express. It is this knowledge of the end of everything, as it is known *only* by God the Father's divine omniscience, of which Christ speaks here — and explains to the Apostles that, *humanly speaking*, He cannot know it. Yet it is highly significant that Our Lord *knows that the Father knows it*. If Christ's knowledge were merely human, He could not know that fact or reveal it to us.

So when He goes on to explain that we can know certain aspects of the future as we know that summer is near when the leaves come out, Our Lord is once more speaking of the events leading to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. It is this destruction which He foretells will take place "*before this generation has passed away*".

What our Lord has done is to talk first about both the *near* future (the destruction of Jerusalem) and the *distant* future (the destruction of the sun, moon and stars). Then after mentioning those two kinds of future event He goes back again. He contrasts the kind of event which men will be able to see coming just as they can see the seasons changing, with the final cataclysm of all visible creation, of which no one but the Father knows the precise time. It is this visible creation to which Our Lord refers in the phrase "*heaven and earth shall pass away*". He does not mean the *invisible* heaven where God lives for ever with His angels and saints in infinite glory. That heaven, like Our Lord's words, will never pass away.

### Sunday November 15th: Thirty-Third Sunday (Green)

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| • 8.30 a.m. <b>Low Mass</b>                   | • 12.00 p.m. <b>(Families with young children)</b> |
| • 9.30 a.m. <b>Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal</b> | • 5.30 p.m. <b>Sung Congregational Mass</b>        |
| • 10.30 a.m. <b>Solemn High Mass</b>          | • 7.30 p.m. <b>Vespers and Benediction</b>         |

### THIRTY-SECOND WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

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

**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 16th November: Feria. (Green).** Optional memorias of *St Margaret of Scotland. (White); or of St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop. (White); or of St Gertrude. (White)*

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

**St Margaret of Scotland** (d. 1093) Queen of Scotland, she was renowned for her piety and charity to all, and also her encouragement in education and the arts.

**St Edmund of Abingdon** (d. 1242) Archbishop of Canterbury, he was a holy man and a visionary. Henry III objected to Edmund's adherence to Rome and he died in exile.

**St Gertrude** (d.1301) A mystic, she had great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which she has fostered throughout the Church by her writings, still of great interest.

**Tuesday 17th November: Feria. (Green).** Optional memorias of *St Elizabeth of Hungary. (White); or of St Hilda, Abbess. (White); or of St Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop. (White)*

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

**St Elizabeth of Hungary** (d.1231) She devoted her life of twenty-four years to charitable works.

**St Hilda** (d.680) Abbess of Whitby, she hosted the great Synod of Whitby through which Roman customs and date of Easter were adopted by the Anglo-Saxon Church.

**St Hugh of Lincoln** (d.1200) A French Carthusian, he became Bishop of Lincoln, rebuilding the diocese. He was renowned for the care of the oppressed, and sick.

**Wednesday 18th November: Feria. (Green).** Optional memoria of the *Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter and St Paul. (White)*

**The Basilicas of Sts Peter & Paul** We commemorate the dedication of the two separate basilicas built during the reign of the Emperor Constantine over the ancient burial places of these great Apostles, both of whom had been martyred by Nero.

**Thursday 19th November: Feria. (Green)**

**Friday 20th November: Feria. (Green)**

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

**Saturday 21st November October: The Presentation of Our Lady. (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 (Christ the King) at 5.45 p.m.**

**The Presentation of Our Lady:** We recall the welcoming of the infant Mary into God's Temple in Jerusalem as part of her preparation for becoming the living "Temple of the Lord" in the Incarnation of the Son of God as her own Son.

**November 22nd: The Solemnity of Christ the King. (White):**

### **Mass & Service Times:**

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin Low Mass 1962 Missal**
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

**Please pray for the sick:** John Murphy, Frank Jones, Ray Colquhoun, Eileen McCormack, Tony Farmer, Celia Reddy, May Roebuck, Paul Beesley, James Foy-nes, Hazel Sawford, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, David Pritchard and Carolyn Knight

**Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Margaret O'Donohue.

**and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Nance Dunn, Patrick Wilkie and Theresa McNamara.

**The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, November 21st/22nd ,  
Thirty-third Sunday:**

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick  
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne  
12.00 p.m.: Morag Marinoni  
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

### **Collections:**

Thirty-second Sunday: 8th November, 2009  
Offertory: £1,472  
Second: Oratory Music Fund: £740  
**Many thanks**

### **TODAY**

**The Second Collection today will be for the Maintenance of the 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.*

**EPIPHANY DRAW** tickets are available at the Church Doors. Please buy some yourselves and take as many as possible to sell to friends, colleagues and relatives. Please return counterfoils and money in an envelope marked "Prize Draw" and hand in to one of the Fathers or at the Oratory House.

**MANY THANKS** to all those who have so generously contributed to the prizes. Your kindness is very much appreciated. God bless you!

### **THIS WEEK**

**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.

**The WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REQUIEM** is on Saturday at 11.00 a.m.

**today's world will be given by Donal Foley after the 11 a.m. Mass on Saturday, 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 Me d-jugorje". 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.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**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 nor 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, Cribs, 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,**

### **YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI:**

Explaining to his parishioners the importance of the sacraments, St John Vianney would say: "Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. Who put him there in that tabernacle? The priest. Who welcomed your soul at the beginning of your life? The priest. Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for its journey? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest, always the priest. And if this soul should happen to die [as a result of sin], who will raise it up, who will restore its calm and peace? Again, the priest... After God, the priest is everything! ... Only in heaven will he fully realize what he is". These words, welling up from the priestly heart of the holy pastor, might sound excessive. Yet they reveal the high esteem in which he held the sacrament of the priesthood.