

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School: web.oratory.bham.sch.uk



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

April 19th 2009: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



MY LORD AND MY GOD

These words of St. Thomas, "doubting Thomas" as he is often called, are a magnificent witness to faith. St. Augustine tells us that Thomas's "doubt" about the truth of the other Apostles' claim to have seen the Lord is of greater significance to us than if he had believed all along. Why? Because if someone like Thomas—a natural-born sceptic, hard to convince, not easily suggestible—should be brought to his knees in faith and adoration, then we too can take courage and believe. Indeed, Our Lord foresees this very fact when He says to Thomas: "*You believe because you have seen me; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.*"

This account from St. John's Gospel is also of great importance because it shows us that Our Lord still bears His wounds even after His glorious resurrection. If His rising were simply the reversal of the terrible injustice of the suffering and death He had endured, then we might expect that His wounds would have disappeared. But no. Not only does He still have the marks of the nails and the spear upon His glorious body, but by them He is able to prove that He is still the same person to His Apostles, and above all in a particular way to St. Thomas.

THE DIVINE MERCY

Our Lord revealed through His servant St. Faustina that His desire to win souls to eternal life was so great that He was prepared to endure anything to save them from damnation, and to offer them His infinite mercy under the most favourable conditions possible. So, to encourage us all to take advantage, He grants us all remission of **all punishment due for our sins up to the present time**, so long as we go to confession and communion today, take part in the Divine Mercy devotions, and spread knowledge of, and devotion to, Our Lord's Divine Mercy. Our Lord has promised extraordinary graces to all those who trust in Him in this way, and also to any great sinners for whom we pray the Divine Mercy prayers, especially at the point of death when, for sinners, the danger of despair is greatest.

Today is the Feast of Divine Mercy on account of the Gospel reading at Mass, in which we hear how, on the first Easter Day, Our Lord appeared to His apostles (without Thomas) and, having greeted them: "*Peace be with you*", He breathed on them the Holy Spirit *for the forgiveness of sins*. This is not the same outpouring of the Spirit as will come on the day of Pentecost after Our Lord has ascended to heaven. Today's special gift from Our Lord is the first fruit of His death and resurrection and is given to the Apostles to administer. They in their turn handed on this gift of the Spirit for the forgiveness of sins in the sacrament of Holy Orders. Hence the vital connection between Divine Mercy and sacramental confession.

During Paschaltide, instead of the *Angelus*, we pray Our Lady's Easter Antiphon:

REGINA CAELI

*Regina Caeli, laetare, Alleluia!
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!
Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!
Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!*

*Then:
Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

*Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!
He whom you were fit to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised has arisen, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God your prayer, Alleluia!*

Let us pray: O God, who have graciously given joy to the world in the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ; grant, we pray, that through His mother the Virgin Mary, we may attain to the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday April 19th: Divine Mercy Sunday (White)

- 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)
- **4.30 p.m. (See overleaf)
- 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass
- 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction

SECOND WEEK OF EASTER: Liturgical Calendar

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

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.

<p>20th April: Monday of Easter Week 2. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m. <hr/> <p>21st April: Tuesday of Easter Week 2 (White) optional memoria of St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benediction at 8 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction. (New members welcome) <p>St Anselm (d. 1109) One of the outstanding figures of the Catholic Church in England, he was an Italian Abbot of a Norman monastery who was an influential theologian and philosopher. Invited by William II to become Archbishop of Canterbury, he became known for his spirituality, sensitivity and generosity: He encouraged the ordination of native Englishmen; he opposed slavery; and he restored to the calendar the names of English saints that his predecessor Lanfranc had removed. He endured turbulent times in his battles with the Crown's attempts at supremacy over the Church, leading to periods of exile, under William II and his son, Henry I. He is a Doctor of the Church.</p> <hr/> <p>22nd April: Wednesday of Easter Week 2. (White)</p> <p>23rd April: (Thursday) Solemnity of St George, Patron of England and Martyr. (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m. <p>St George: venerated in the east from early times, it is unclear how he became Patron of England. He was martyred during the Diocletian persecutions in c. 300, probably in Palestine, and his popularity spread during the Crusades.</p> <hr/> <p>24th April: Friday of Easter Week 2. (White). Optional memoria of St Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr. (Red); or of St Fidelis of Simaringen, Priest & Martyr. (Red)</p> <p>St Adalbert of Prague (956-997) A Bohemian by birth, he was appointed Bishop of Prague in 982. Difficulties with Duke Boleslaus of Bohemia led to his exile and he joined a monastery in Rome. Two years later, the Pope ordered him back to Prague, but following the murder of his family by Boleslaus, he was released from his episcopal duties. He preached successfully in Poland, Hungary and Russia and was styled the Apostle of the Slavs. He was martyred near Danzig.</p> <p>St Fidelis (1577-1622) A German lawyer, he became known as the "advocate of the Poor", and then found his true vocation as a Capuchin. He was sent as a missionary to Switzerland, but his success so worried the ruling Calvinists, they invented the story that he was an Austrian spy resulting in his murder.</p> <hr/> <p>25th April: Saturday: St Mark the Evangelist. (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (Third Sunday of Easter) at 5.45 p.m. <p>St Mark became St Peter's "disciple and interpreter" recording his preaching in the Gospel that bears his name. He preached in Alexandria, where he was martyred. His body is enshrined in St Mark's Church in Venice.</p>	<p>26th April: Third Sunday of Easter (White)</p> <p>Mass & Service Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Mass in English 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction <hr/> <p>Please pray for the sick: Sr Francis Clare, May Poppins, John Rose, Katie Hayward, Mary Cunliffe, Carole Halls, Margaret Casey, Maria Constantinou, John McCann, Patrick Walshe, and Raymond Colquhoun.</p> <p>Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:</p> <p>and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Gelsomino Pulisciano, May Wall, Irene Byrne, James Bartley, Guy Collis, Joseph Keegan and Geoffrey Nutter.</p> <p>Katherine Ross's funeral is on Tuesday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: before Mass.</p> <hr/> <p>The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, April 25th/26th, The Third Sunday of Easter:</p> <p><i>Saturday 5.45 p.m.:</i> Jenni Hardwick <i>Sunday 8.30 a.m.:</i> Murray Wilson-Browne <i>12.00 p.m.:</i> Denis Wood <i>5.30 p.m.:</i> Brendan Cummins</p> <hr/> <p>Collections:</p> <p><i>Easter Day: 12th April, 2009</i> Offertory: £1,557 Second: Easter offering for the Clergy: £3,630</p> <p><i>Many thanks</i></p>
<p>TODAY</p> <p>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY will be observed here by an afternoon of prayer, commencing at 2.30 p.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, during which there will be the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and Benediction. Mass will be at 4.30 p.m. <i>Confessions will be heard throughout the afternoon from 2 p.m.</i> A Plenary Indulgence is attached to this Devotion, under the usual conditions, i.e. confession, communion and prayer for the Pope's intentions. You are welcome to bring your pictures of the Divine Mercy Image for blessing. (Pictures can be obtained from the Piety Stall)</p> <p>The SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for the Diocesan Development Fund.</p> <p>The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses.</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION AT RED-NAL THIS WEEK.</p> <p>CONCELEBRATED MASS COMMEMORATING CARDINAL NEWMAN'S MINISTRY AT ST ANNE'S, ALCESTER STREET (1849-1852) will be offered on Wednesday at 7 p.m. by Bishop Gilles Cabazon, OMI, Emeritus Bishop of St. Jerome, Quebec, Canada. The Preacher will be Fr Paul. Mass will be followed by a Reception hosted by Trident Housing in Cherish House (opposite St. Anne's).</p> <p>ST GEORGES DAY is being celebrated at the Norman Power Centre, Skipton Rd Ladywood, on Thursday from 5-7.30 p.m. To</p>	<p>book please call 675 7846: tickets £5. (See poster for more details)</p> <p>ASSOCIATION FOR LATIN LITURGY (ALL) is holding its annual Spring Meeting at Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, April 25th, beginning with Sung Mass at St. Joseph's Church at 12 noon. Lunch at a nearby hotel. In the afternoon there will be a talk by Ian Wells on Catholic Churches in Stoke, concluding with Vespers at 4 p.m. Please see Fr. Guy if you are interested in going and would like transport.</p> <p>PRO-LIFE CHAIN organised by SPUC will take place on the pavement of the Hagley Rd near Five Ways on <i>Saturday</i>, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The chain is a peaceful and silent vigil where the pro-life message is witnessed by hundreds of passing motorists. Please join the chain and show your support for a renewed culture of life in our country. For more details contact Gill Bowen: 454 8517</p> <p>ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (for those ages 20-35) The first social event (ten-pin bowling) takes place on Saturday. Please meet at the Oratory House at 11.45 a.m. (after the 11 a.m. Mass). <i>Please let Richard Winstanley know by this Thursday whether you will be going.</i> The next formal meeting will take place on Thursday 7th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. The discussion will be on "Portraying the Catholic View of Sexuality in Secular Britain"</p> <p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>ST PAUL'S SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' ASS'N Annual Buffet is on Saturday 16th May. Doors This is a TICKET ONLY event <i>Closing Date for Tickets is Saturday 25th April 2009.</i></p>