

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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

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September 5th 2010: THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE POPE'S VISIT

Although the invitation to Pope Benedict to come to England was first issued a year ago by the former Prime Minister, Mr Brown, one of the factors that undoubtedly persuaded him to accept the invitation was the opportunity it gave him to beatify Cardinal Newman here in his own land. It is most unusual for the Pope to perform a beatification. Pope John Paul II used to do so, but he had broken with the custom long since established whereby beatifications are celebrated in the new Blessed's own diocese by a Cardinal representing the Pope, rather than by the Pope in person.

Pope Benedict has a personal veneration for Cardinal Newman's teaching, for his wonderful faithfulness to Christ and His Church, and his great love for Our Blessed Lady. His profound teaching on conscience, as the key to understanding our true human dignity and our purpose in life as creatures called to union with God, is a great witness in our times when God is considered superfluous to human existence. The Pope therefore wants to draw particular attention throughout the world to this great and holy man who founded our Oratory and lived his entire Catholic life in our city.

Moreover, it was not originally envisaged that the Pope would be able to visit the Oratory, but the change of venue for the beatification Mass from Coventry Airport to the more appropriate setting of Cofton Park, so much loved by the Cardinal and only half a mile from his burial place, made it possible for the Pope to call in to pray at the Cardinal's new shrine and see the room in which he lived, prayed and worked for forty years. He will then leave to join the Bishops of England, Scotland and Wales at Oscott College, where Newman was confirmed after his reception into the Church, and where he preached one of his most famous Catholic Sermons to the assembled Bishops of England and Wales in 1852. The Pope will then return to Rome on Sunday evening. His presence here in Birmingham at three sites, all associated in some way with our Cardinal, is a tremendous privilege for our city and for our Oratory alike.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ON SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

1. MASS AT THE ORATORY: Because of the Beatification Mass at Cofton at 10 a.m., followed by the Pope's personal visit to the Oratory, there will be ONLY ONE MASS in church that Sunday, at 8.30 a.m. Entry will be by the Plough & Harrow Road door only and as there may be a search, bags should not be brought in. There will be no Sunday evening Mass at all. N.B. The Saturday evening Vigil Mass will take place as usual at 5.45 p.m.

2. WELCOMING THE POPE TO THE ORATORY: we still await final instructions on this, but hope that it will be possible for our own parishioners who have not been at Cofton Park to stand outside the Church and House entrance on the Hagley Road to welcome the Pope as he arrives and wish him well as he leaves. We will put up notices as soon as we know.

3. VISITS TO THE NEW SHRINE: we hope that it will be possible to allow pilgrims to visit the shrine on the very day of the beatification, but this will probably not be until some time after the Pope has left for Oscott.

4. VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: will be celebrated at the usual time of 7.30 p.m. in the presence of many bishops from around the world. All our parishioners are encouraged to take part in this, the first liturgical celebration in our Church in honour of the new "Blessed John Henry Newman".

5. On the following day, Monday 20th September, there will be various groups celebrating Masses during the morning. The Oratorian celebration for all our parishioners and visiting Oratorians will be a High Mass, presided over by the Provost, Fr Richard, at 6.30 p.m. Please come and join in the celebrations especially on Sunday and Monday evenings!

A NEW TIMETABLE

Immediately after the Pope's visit and given the new status of Cardinal Newman as "Blessed John Henry", there will be changes to our weekly timetable in church as previously aired in the Newsletter.

SUNDAY MASSES WILL REMAIN THE SAME. The only difference to the weekend Mass schedule is that the Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday will be celebrated at 5.30 p.m., not 5.45 as at present. On Sunday evenings, Vespers and Benediction will be celebrated at 6.30 p.m., an hour earlier than previously, to encourage more to take part in this beautiful evening prayer service of the Church. Other changes on weekdays and on Feast Days that fall during the week will be announced shortly. However, the Mass times on ordinary weekdays will remain the same as at present. Changes will principally affect some of the other services like Benediction, Rosary and the other evening Devotions.

Sunday September 5th: The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 3 in the Divine Office

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Rosary 7.45 p.m. (for Saturdays: see over)

Holy Hour: Each Weekday from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Benediction on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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

Monday 6th September: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**

Tuesday 7th September: Feria. (Green)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

Wednesday 8th September: Birthday of Our Blessed Lady, Feast. (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**

The Birthday of Our Lady has been celebrated on this day since the sixth century in the Christian East, and gradually came to be celebrated much later in the West. It is nowadays overshadowed here in the West by the even more important solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, nine months earlier. Whilst it is true to say that there is no particular historical reason to believe that this date is the *actual* day on which Our Lady was born, nevertheless, days that are hallowed by the Church undoubtedly connect us with the mysteries which we commemorate and our celebrations obtain for us many graces from heaven.

Thursday 9th September: Feria. (Green) or Optional Memoria of St Peter Claver, Priest, (White) or Optional Memoria of St Osburg of Coventry. Abbess, (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**

St Peter Claver (d. 1654) A Spanish Jesuit. He spent most of his priestly life in Cartagena in Colombia, where he worked tirelessly for the welfare and conversion of thousands of slaves, landed at that port from West Africa.

St Osburg (d. 1018) was the first abbess of the monastery founded in Coventry by King Canute.

Friday 10th September: Feria. (Green) or Optional Memoria of St Egwin, Bishop. (White) or Optional Memoria of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa. Priest (White) or optional memoria of St Ambrose Barlow, Priest and English Martyr. (Red)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**

St Egwin (8th century) Bishop of Worcester, he founded the Abbey of Evesham at the site of the first recorded appearance by Our Blessed Lady in England.

Blessed Agnellus of Pisa (d. 1236) A Franciscan friar, he was sent by St. Francis of Assisi in person to establish the Franciscan Order in England. He founded the original friaries of Canterbury, London and Oxford.

St Ambrose Barlow (1585-1641) he became a Benedictine missionary monk and ministered many years in his native Lancashire, even having the privilege of administering the last Sacraments to St. Edmund Arrowsmith, another priest-martyr, in 1628. Frequently imprisoned himself, he was eventually martyred for his faith and priesthood at Lancaster on this day in 1641.

Saturday 11th September: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or Feria. (Green);

- **Low Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year) at 5.45 p.m.**

September 12th: the Twenty-fourth 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 Carl Briggs, Miles Drew, Ben Zissman, Brenda Molloy, Elizabeth Friday, John Carter, Jaqueline Packham, Josephine Spooner, Nick Usher-Somers, Ute Bowyer, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Kevan Bleach, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Barbara Jarvis.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Fr. Patrick Branagan and Nicholas O'Toole

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr. Austin Mills & Fr. Vincent Reade both of this Oratory, Edward Hill, James Hogan and Con McNamara.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, September 11th/12th The Twenty-fourth Sunday

Saturday 5.45 p.m: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections last week:

The Twenty-first Sunday: 22nd August, 2010

Offertory: £1,420

Second: Cardinal Newman's Shrine: £1042

Separate Donations: Cardinal Newman's shrine: £2,685

(Target £45,000: Raised so far: c.£42,500)

Very many thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION will be for the continuing expenses of the preparation of Cardinal Newman's shrine.

THE PIETY STALL Cardinal Newman medals are on sale this weekend. THIS WEEK

There will be a HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning to pray for the success of The Beatification and the Pope's visit.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will take place on Wednesday starting at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 5 p.m.

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS, i.e. **both** those who have kindly offered their services to guard the Church and direct visitors to Cardinal Newman's shrine on Sunday 19th September (after the Pope's visit) **and** those who are prepared to act as stewards at weekends regularly (not necessarily frequently) thereafter, are invited to attend a meeting in the Lower Cloister Hall on Wednesday next, September 8th at 7.30 p.m. Please help to keep our church open and welcoming to the many visitors drawn here after the beatification!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

'NEWMAN and BIRMINGHAM' - a lecture which will be given by Professor Sheridan Gilley, author of *Newman and His Age*, to mark the Beatification of Cardinal Newman. It takes place on Monday 13 September at 6 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham. The event is free but please register attendance with Aidan Thompson at a.p.thompson@bham.ac.uk, or 0121 414 3602.

The NEWMAN CONFERENCE Saturday 18th at the ICC from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. The cost for the day, is £80 (£45 concessions). Lunch, and a copy of the official Newman Biography is included in the cost. To book: 0121 780 3333, or at www.thsh.co.uk

A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF 'THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS' (Cardinal Newman's great poem, set to music by Elgar) **on the eve of the Beatification, 18th September,** will take place at the Town Hall at 5.30 p.m. It will be performed on period instruments by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment with Ex Cathedra. For tickets: Town Hall Box Office 0121 780 3333 (and early booking is recommended).

THE POPE'S VISIT

MAGNIFICAT: The complete Handbook for the Pope's visit is available at the back of the Church today and next Sunday. Please take one. If you are going to Cofton Park you will certainly need one of these books. If you are watching any or all of the events on TV or the Internet, it will be a useful guide to what is happening. The books are free, but to defray the expense of production and distribution, a donation of c. £2 per copy has been suggested by the Bishops' Conference.

THE POPE AT THE ORATORY: When our Holy Father comes to the Oratory straight after the beatification, he will be the first pilgrim to pray in the new shrine in St Philip's Chapel. The visit will be very short **and it will be completely private.** However, it will be possible to stand outside the Oratory to welcome the Pope to our Church. Special arrangements for Oratory Parishioners who are not going to Cofton Park but who would like to see the Pope will be announced next weekend.

THE NEW SHRINE: We are nearly there, thanks to your generosity, but we still need another £2,500 to reach our target. We would like to say a very special thank you to all of you who have contributed so far towards setting up Blessed John Henry Newman's shrine and to fund the redecoration of St Philip's Chapel, making it ready to receive the relics of Blessed John Henry. For all donations, we would strongly urge those of you who are taxpayers to complete a Gift Aid form (to be found at the doors of the church) as we can increase your donation by claiming money back from Revenue & Customs.

VOLUNTEER Programme sellers: IVS, official merchandiser for the papal visit, are looking for volunteers to sell the Official Programme to pilgrims: "... people who are friendly, enthusiastic and keen". Volunteers who need to be over 16 will have access to the event & are also invited to purchase up to 3 items of the merchandise at 75% discount. (These to be ordered through IVS before the event—details: www.papalvisitstore.com) For further information: 0208 560 0009 ext 259 or email sam.mason@ivsgroutpltd.com

