

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 9th 2008: THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Remembrance Sunday



FOR THOSE KILLED IN WAR

It is a most unusual thing to celebrate a Requiem Mass on a Sunday, and especially when this Sunday is a special Feast: "The Dedication of the Lateran" (see below). But it is a sign of the importance of this "Remembrance" we make that the Church not only allows, but encourages us, to celebrate today a Solemn Mass for those killed in war.

The first thing to note is that those killed in war need our prayers more than our praise. The residual protestantism of this land, especially in the culture of the armed forces, concentrates on praising the heroism of those killed in armed conflict, because protestantism denies both the doctrine of Purgatory and the possibility of praying for the dead "that they may be loosed from their sins". However, in the first reading at today's High Mass we will hear that passage from the Book of Macchabees in the Old Testament which speaks of the great Jewish leader, Judas Maccabaeus, who led a successful revolt against the pagans occupying power in the Holy Land and restored the worship of the God of Israel in Jerusalem. Although he and his army won the battle, many of his soldiers who died were found to have pagan "lucky charms" on their bodies when they were taken for burial. Judas Maccabaeus called for a sacrifice to be offered to God as a supplication on behalf of these fallen soldiers who had sinned, so that they should not be lost for ever. This means that Judas knew that there was hope for these sinners, even though they had died in sin; and also that the living could assist the dead in being rid of the effects of their sin. So the author of the Book of Macchabees comments at the end of today's first reading: "it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins." This is our Catholic faith and understanding: We can help the souls of those who, though sinners, can still find God's mercy and be cleansed from their sins and the effect of sin which remains in their souls at death. Nobody knows how long souls remain in Purgatory. What "time" in that state between death and heaven is like is difficult for us to assess. Yet since Purgatory is a process in which sinful, yet forgiven, souls become holy and fit for God's presence, it must take "time" for that change to come about. This change will need to be greater in some souls than others, depending on many circumstances in their former lives on earth. Our prayers can assist them in undertaking this process. That is why it is a charitable and praiseworthy thing for us to have Masses offered, to offer our own prayers and sacrifices, especially during November, for the souls in purgatory—and in particular on this day for all those who died in war. They are most likely to have met death suddenly and without adequate spiritual preparation, just like those for whom Judas Maccabaeus had a sacrifice offered in Jerusalem.

THE POPE'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH

Today's feast known generally as the "Dedication of the Lateran Basilica" recalls the Dedication of the Pope's Cathedral Church in Rome, or, to give it its full title, the *Archbasilica of Our Saviour and Sts. John the Baptist and John the Evangelist*. It is popularly known as "the Lateran Basilica" after the noble Roman family of the "Laterani" who gave the land to Pope St. Silvester, the first Pope to reign after the end of the great centuries of persecution. Here the Pope was at last able openly to establish his home and Cathedral Church.

Because a consecrated Church building is a symbol of Christ, and of His Body, the Church built up of living stones, this feast can take the place of an Ordinary Sunday, as it does today. In any diocese, the Cathedral is the Mother Church, because it is the place where the Bishop celebrates the Liturgy and from which he directs the local Church placed under his care by Christ, the Good Shepherd. In the case of the Cathedral of Rome, however, we are considering the Church from which the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, presides as Supreme Pastor over the entire Catholic world. The Lateran Basilica, the "Archbasilica of Our Saviour", is therefore a powerful sign of the unity of the Church on earth, focussed on the person successor of Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, upon whom Christ established the foundation and governance of His Church.



Sunday November 9th: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (White) (Remembrance Day)

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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 Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. Solemn Requiem Mass for the Fallen in War | • 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction |

THIRTY SECOND WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 4

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. and Stations of the Cross on Fridays in November for the Holy Souls

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

Monday November 10th: St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

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

St Leo the Great (d. 461) Elected Pope in 440, he was a man of great ability. The Doctrine of the Incarnation with which we are familiar was formulated by him, and he declared the natures of Our Lord, manhood and divinity, united yet unmixed in His One Divine Person. Leo twice saved Rome from barbarian invasion, at one point, confronting Attila the Hun at the Gates of Rome when he was intent on sacking it, and persuading him to turn back.

Tuesday November 11th: St Martin of Tours, Bishop. Memoria. (White).

- **Benediction at 8.00 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet in St Philip's Chapel after Benediction. New members welcome.

St Martin of Tours (c.316-97) A pagan officer in the Roman army in Pannonia (modern Hungary), he gave a beggar half of his cloak. Later, seeing a vision of Our Lord wearing it, he was converted. St Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, assisted him in founding a monastery which is still in existence. He was appointed Bishop of Tours, though he remained a monk. He was known not only for his compassion and mercy, but also for his miracles.

Wednesday November 12th: St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr. Memoria. (Red)

St Josaphat (1584-1623) A Polish monk in the Byzantine Rite, he devoted his life trying to unify the Greek and Ukrainian Christians with the Holy See, but he was murdered by those who opposed unity between Rome and the Orthodox Church under the Pope.

Thursday November 13th: FERIA. (Green)

Friday November 14th: FERIA. (Green)

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

Saturday November 15th: Our Lady on Saturday. Memoria. (White); or FERIA; or optional memoria of St Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (White)

- **Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **11 a.m.: St Philip's Old Boys' Association Annual Requiem**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 10.45**
- **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 Thirty-third Sunday, at 5.45 p.m.**

St Albert the Great was a German who belonged to the earliest generation of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) and both studied and taught in Paris and Cologne. He was a notable theologian and, most important for the subsequent development of science and learning, he was an outstanding student of natural science, basing his method on careful observation of facts and natural phenomena, and formulating penetrating questions for investigation and study. He was a great teacher and among his pupils was St. Thomas Aquinas. He was eventually appointed Bishop of Ratisbon in Southern Germany. He is a Doctor of the Church.

Sunday November 16th: The Thirty-third 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: Fr Cownley, Olive d'Silva, Ellen O'Beirne, Bernard Heurnann, Bridget Shields, Marie-Therese Jones, Kim Potter, Maurice Hynes, Carole Halls, Margaret Casey and Frank McGuinness. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr John Cook of this Oratory, Susan Ann Donovan, Tommie Logan, John O'Driscoll and Kathleen Cunningham.

The following are requested to read next weekend, November 15th/16th The Thirty-third Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Denis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

We now only have one reader on the rota for the 12.00 p.m. Mass. Please give your name, address/email (in writing) to one of the Frs if you would volunteer to read at this Mass, or any of the other Masses. Many thanks

Collections:

Solemnity of All Saints, 2nd November:
Offertory: £1,854
Second: Newman Cause: £2,699
Many thanks

TODAY

The **SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND** will be for the **ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE JOHNSON FUND** which takes care of sick and retired priests of the diocese.

The **PIETY STALL** is open after all Sunday Masses. It has a large selection of *Advent calendars and wreaths, Christmas cards, gifts, calendars, diaries etc. including cards etc being sold on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need.*, in addition to the usual stock and a wide selection of books.

HOLY SOULS: Papers are to be found at the church doors for you to place 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 remember not to place any money in that box. Money for Masses must always be given in at the Sacristy or Church Door.**

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday beginning with Mass at 2.30 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS for the Holy Souls take place on Fridays in November at 8 p.m. (following the Rosary).

The **UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS' ANNUAL REQUIEM** takes place on Tuesday at 10.30 a.m.

The **11 A.M. MASS ON SATURDAY** will be the **St Philip's Grammar School / Sixth Form College Annual Requiem Mass**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARYVALE ADVENT RETREAT Saturday 29th November from 10.30-4.40 p.m. will be led by Fr John Redford. The day will include talks, Adoration and Mass. Cost for the day: £9. To book, please telephone 360 8118, or 325 2414, or email: bridgettines@maryvale.ac.uk

The **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** resumes its study of St Gianna Molla on Friday, November 21st, 12—2 p.m. Please telephone 688 4154 or 07525 161 806 or email: rosary@blueyonder.co.uk for details.

NOTICES

The **ORATORY CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW** will be drawn, as usual on the old Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th 2009. Tickets will be on sale shortly and we would be glad to receive contributions of prizes, particularly for the First Prize of £500. You do not need to contribute the whole amount, donations towards it would be much appreciated. Other gifts would also be welcome but please note that they must be in new condition—i.e. unused!)

EXAM INVIGILATORS: St. Paul's School for Girls, Vernon Road, is seeking to increase its team of Exam Invigilators, who supervise the administration of internal and external examinations. Rate of pay: £7.96 per hour. Invigilators will need to be CRB checked, have effective communication skills, pay attention to detail and be very flexible and reliable. Please telephone 0121 454 0895 for more details.

READERS AT MASS: We are always looking for more readers at all Sunday Masses, but in particular there is only one reader on the rota for the 12.00 p.m. Sunday Mass Please jot down your name, address or email, and telephone number and give to one of the Fathers, or to the Oratory House addressed to Fr Guy, if you are willing to volunteer to read at this Mass, or any of the other Masses. Many thanks.

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLICS IN EDUCATION is a new initiative to support Catholic teachers, governors and all Catholics working in education whether in private, state schools or colleges. The next meeting on 20th November 2008 at Pastoral Centre, St Joseph's, New Malden 7.30pm Paul Stubbings, Deputy Headteacher of The Cardinal Vaughan School will speak on "Promoting Catholic Values in Education". The talk will be followed by an open forum discussion with a panel of local educationalists. The meeting is open, in particular, to staff and governors from Catholic schools as well as Catholics working in non Catholic schools.