

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.

June 28th 2009: SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL



KEPHAS or ROCK

The Gospel at Mass today reminds us that "Peter" is really what we call a "nickname", which Our Lord gave to His Apostle Simon, brother of Andrew, on this very occasion. This took place once, when Jesus had asked the Apostles who men said He was. They told Him various names of persons the general population thought Jesus might be—but when Jesus asked them who *they themselves* thought He was, it was Peter who spoke up with great firmness before all the others, **"You are the Christ (the "Anointed One"), the Son of the living God!"**

So it was that Jesus, answering Simon's clear declaration, bestowed this new name upon Him: "Rock", which is the meaning of the Aramaic word: "Kepha", a name which we hear in its original form in St. Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians (1:12) and in the Epistle to the Galatians (1:18). Elsewhere, as here in the Gospel, the word is directly translated into the Greek in which the New Testament was written: "Petros" from which our more familiar "Peter" is obviously derived.

Yet it is at first sight puzzling that Simon should have been so named. Was he not in reality one of the *least* constant of the Twelve? His walking on the water nearly resulted in his drowning, and his triple denial that he knew Jesus at the time of the Lord's trial was hardly a sign of rock-like firmness.

Of course, Simon Peter's firmness was not total from Day 1, so to speak; it had to develop, and it did so, very painfully. Peter realised over and over again that he was not strong enough to stand up for his Saviour without his Saviour's help. *Yet despite his obvious want of courage on those notable occasions he never lost faith in Jesus.* In fact it was his faith in Jesus that saved him from drowning, and which prevented him from following Judas into despair after his threefold denial.

He was still with the others when, after the Resurrection, Our Lord would ask him three times: "Simon, do you love me?" It was after that threefold answer: "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you!" that Jesus finally promised Peter that he would indeed give the final act of witness by undergoing a brave death for his Master's sake. It was this event that took place in Rome in 64 A.D., when Peter was crucified head-down in Nero's Circus, a racetrack built on the side of the Vatican Hill, where he was subsequently buried and venerated by the early Christians. The Emperor Constantine built a great basilica over the site of this tomb in the early 4th century, where the present St. Peter's stands today in Rome.

SAUL becomes PAUL

We are now at the end of the "Year of St. Paul" that began last year in celebration of the bi-millennium of St. Paul's birth. Saul, the Pharisee from Tarsus in Asia Minor, was a Greek-speaking Jew of the "diaspora", the dispersion of many Jewish people throughout the Mediterranean world e.g. on account of trade. He was also a Roman citizen, a distinguished status inherited from his family, which was wealthy enough to acquire for him also the best possible Jewish education under Gamaliel, the most learned Rabbi of the day. (cf. Acts 22:3)

His persecution of the earliest Christians is well-known on account of the dramatic contrast with his conversion. His change of name, however, was not the immediate consequence of his conversion. In fact, it was only after he had converted the Roman Proconsul of Cyprus, Sergius Paulus, (cf. Acts 13:7) that he seems to have adopted that very Roman name "Paulus" (Acts 13:9). It was not uncommon for Jews who travelled extensively throughout the pagan world to adopt Roman or Greek names, e.g. St Mark the evangelist was originally "John (Markos)", and Joseph Barsabbas became known as "Justus". We do not know the reason why Paul adopted this particular new name, but if, as it seems likely, it relates to his conversion of Sergius Paulus, then it may simply be that its closeness to "Saul" and its Latin meaning, "*little*", may have been a motive for its choice: after all Paul does tell the Corinthians that he is "*the least of all the Apostles, who am not worthy to be called an Apostle, on account of the fact that I persecuted the Church of God*" (1 Cor 15:9). Let us give thanks to God today for the teaching given to the Church by this great Apostle of the Gentiles, and continue to study it and endeavour to live by it.

Sunday June 28th: St Peter and St Paul (Red)

- 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*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

TWELFTH 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.

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Tuesday. 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 29th June: Feria. (Green)

- **High Mass (1962 Missal) at 8 p.m. Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul**

Tuesday 30th June: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of The First Martyrs of the See of Rome. (Red)

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

First Martyrs of the See of Rome (1st century) We commemorate the thousands of men, women and children martyred by the Emperor Nero. He accused them of burning Rome when he had done so himself to cover his many crimes. Some were burned as living torches at evening banquets, some crucified, others were fed to wild animals. These martyrs died before Peter and Paul, and are called "disciples of the Apostles. . . whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the Apostles' death."

Wednesday 1st July: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Oliver Plunkett, Bishop & Martyr. (Red)

St Oliver Plunkett (1625-81) After his ordination in Rome, he remained there because of persecution in his native Ireland until 1679 when he was appointed Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland. He set about his new appointment with fervour, establishing schools and confirming thousands. When persecutions returned to Ireland, his earlier censure of bad priests and religious led to some taking advantage of the 'Titus Oates plot' to incriminate him. He was arrested and taken to London and was refused time to get witnesses who could attest to his innocence. He was the last Catholic to die for his faith at Tyburn.

Thursday 2nd July: Feria. (Green).

Friday 3rd July: St Thomas, Apostle. Feast. (Red)

St Thomas One of the Twelve, known as "Didymus" (Greek for *twin*), his scepticism vanished at the sight of Our Lord's wounds. After Pentecost, he travelled to Asia Minor and eventually reached the Malabar Coast in India which still boasts a large Catholic population in Kerala calling themselves "Christians of St Thomas". He was martyred at Calamine.

Saturday, 4th July: Our Lady on Saturday. (White) Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Elizabeth of Portugal. (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 (Fourteenth Sunday) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Elizabeth of Portugal (1271-1336) Despite a troublesome marriage, she lived a life of prayer and cared for the needy founding hospitals, orphanages and a women's refuge. She used her position as Queen of Portugal to broker peace between nations. After her husband died she went to assist at a Poor Clares' convent she had established.

July 5th: Fourteenth 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. Latin 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: Joan Maclellan, Ray Colquhoun, Connie Hayward, Patrick Walshe, Pat Healey, Peter Young, David McLean, John Rose, Carole Halls, Marie-Therese Jones, Michael McCann and Sr Francis Clare.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: May Poppins;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Thomas Pope and Fr Joseph Bacchus, both of this Oratory, Peter Brunt, Molly Dawson, Sidney Mee, Maurrie O'Brian, Margaret Thirlaway, Michael Young and Josef Kuczerawy.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, July 4th/5th, The Fourteenth Sunday of the Year:

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

Collections:

Twelfth Sunday of the Year: 21st June, 2009

Offertory: £1,416

Second: Organ Maintenance: £502

Thank you

TODAY

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for "Peter's Pence", which supports the Pope's own charities.

Next Sunday, the second collection will be for the *Day of Life* and will be for the Linacre Centre which defends and expounds all aspects of Catholic moral teaching.

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, including Saturday evening.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS: 19th JUNE 2009—19th JUNE 2010: Following on from the Year of St. Paul which comes to an end on the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, the Pope has announced a "Year for Priests" which began on the Feast of the Sacred Heart last week. *Locally, this year will be launched at a Mass in the grounds of Oscott College today at 2 p.m., celebrated by Archbishop Nichols.* Cards with a prayer for priests are available at the Church doors.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday, commencing as usual with Holy Mass at 2.30 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.40 p.m.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (ages 20—35) The next evening meeting will be on Thursday 2nd July at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. There will be a talk and discussion about "The Humanity of the Unborn". New members to the group are welcome. Any questions, please telephone Richard: 07905 601 721.

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH meets on Saturday, 4th July, at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House. *All are welcome.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ECUMENICAL SONGS OF PRAISE is at 6 p.m. on 5th July, at St Augustine's, C of E, Lyttleton Rd, Edgbaston.

The FRIENDS OF THE POOR CLARES, Baddesley Clinton, are holding a quiz night at 7 p.m. on Saturday 11th July at Lapworth Hall, Catesby Lane, Lapworth. Tickets £5, or £4 in advance: Please telephone Matthew Bowen: 07801 538 776

ROSARY RALLY TO PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE & FOR YOUNG PEOPLE will be taking place at Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire, on Sunday 16th August commencing with Mass at 3 p.m. and including Exposition, Blessing of the Sick and Benediction.

NOTICES

SIEGE OF JERICHO: Important information: You may have seen the notices advertising this annual week of prayer against abortion as taking place commencing on Monday 13th July. Unfortunately *this will not now be possible* but will take place from Monday September 14th to Sunday 20th.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA (proposed): Sat 5th -12th September: c. £400 (sharing). Please speak to Stephanie on 0121 454 0496 if you are interested.

APF RED BOXES are due now as the quarter has come to an end.
FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN AT SUNDAY 12 o'clock MASS: Parents can find it difficult to know what to do with young children during Mass. Perhaps some of you feel embarrassed if others may find it difficult to pay attention to what is going on, especially during the sermon! Remember—St. Philip's Chapel (near to the Plough and Harrow Road entrance) is available especially (but not only) during the 12 noon Mass for parents to take young children. There is a collection of picture books with prayers for the Mass and stories about the Saints and the Scriptures. But if you do take your children into the chapel please stay with them. Please remember that the Chapel is not a playground, and is only intended for use by small children with their parents and not for any child who has received First Holy Communion.