

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.



May 4th 2008: THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION (Transferred)



CHRIST AT THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND

Eastertide's second period begins today with the Ascent of our Risen Lord to the Father's Right Hand in Heaven. From Easter Day, Jesus assured His Apostles of His Resurrection by His many appearances to them and taught them that all He had achieved in His Paschal Mystery (His Passion, Death, Resurrection and Glorification at the Father's Side) would now be imparted to them through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

His last act on earth is to tell His Apostles that they must wait in prayer in the Upper Room in Jerusalem where they have met Him already many times since His rising from the dead. There they will be filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered by Him to go out to the whole world and preach the Gospel of salvation, baptising all nations in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

St. Luke tells us that as the Apostles watched their Lord being taken from their sight they were interrupted by two men in white who brought their attention back to earth: "Why are you men from Galilee looking up into the sky? Jesus, whom you have seen taken into heaven, He will return in the same way that you have seen Him go." Thus, at the last moment of His earthly life, Our Lord's future return in glory is brought to mind. Hence the Apostles returned to Jerusalem just as they had been told, not sorrowfully, but with great rejoicing. This is very significant. Our Lord's departure might have seemed like a bereavement, had He not already promised "I will not leave you orphans, I will return to you". The manner of His return, however, will be different. Just as His return to them after His resurrection was so different from His earthly appearance that they failed to recognise Him straightaway, so His return after His ascension into heavenly glory will also be different again.

It is His promised gift of the Holy Spirit who will make Him present to His followers once more. This presence will be spiritual and will be internal—not a visible presence, but an indwelling in the souls of those who receive the Spirit in His Name. It is through the Holy Spirit that we recognise Christ as present in His Church now and always until He comes again in glory. It is through the Holy Spirit's work within the Church that Christ makes Himself present to us in the Sacraments.

THE MONTH OF MAY

This year, owing to the exceptionally early Easter, May is unusually rich with feasts. Each Sunday this month is a great feast. Following today's feast of the Ascension we will celebrate on each of the succeeding three Sundays: Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi. The day following Corpus Christi will be the solemnity of our own St. Philip, and in that same week on the last two days of May we will celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Visitation of Our Lady.

It is fitting that May closes with a special feast of Our Lady since the whole month is dedicated to her. But it is also typical of Our Lady that throughout her special month she directs our attention to so many great mysteries of our Faith: the Glorification of her Son in heaven; the mission to the Church of the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity at Pentecost; the gift of her Son's Body and Blood in Holy Communion at Corpus Christi; the infinite love of her Divine Son for fallen humanity revealed in His Sacred Heart, which is the fountain of sacramental life poured out in the blood and water flowing from His side on the cross.

This also reveals a wonderful truth to us; by honouring the Mother of God we are not diverted away from God but rather we are brought ever closer to Him. What more fitting way could there be to begin this special month than by coming to take part this afternoon in the Procession and Crowning of Our Lady's statue? We should place this month under Our Lady's patronage so that we may draw greater spiritual benefit from all that it offers us. In addition, on every weekday evening this month at 7.45 p.m. we offer you the opportunity to join us in honouring Our Lady with devotions enriched by Cardinal Newman's wonderful meditations. This coming week we also continue preparing for Pentecost with the Church's oldest Novena, that which was first prayed by Our Lady and the Apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Later in the month the May devotions will be augmented by a Novena in preparation for the Solemnity of St. Philip. Please make an effort to come to as many of these wonderful prayerful celebrations as you can. **"Unless we show devotion, we will never grow in devotion!"**

Sunday May 4th: The Solemnity of The Ascension (White)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. 1962 rite Mass (in the church) | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass | • 7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction |

SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER: Liturgical Calendar

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

May Devotions 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>Monday May 5th: Monday of Easter Week 7. (White). BANK HOLIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only . No Evening Devotions 	<p>Please pray for the sick Antonietta Boffa, Maria Papa, Peter Young, Patrick Finn, Celia McHugh, Stephen Realf, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea, Vivian Beesley, Marie-Thérèse Jones Cathal McGrory and Ellen Westwood.</p>
<p>Tuesday May 6th: Tuesday of Easter Week 7. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions and Novena before Pentecost at 7.45 p.m. Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction 	<p>Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Mary Berry;</p>
<p>Wednesday May 7th: Wednesday of Easter Week 7. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions and Novena before Pentecost 	<p>and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Kathleen Molloy, Philip Drew, Michael Reidy John Gallagher and Alfredo Testa.</p>
<p>Thursday May 8th: Thursday of Easter Week 7. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions and Novena before Pentecost at 7.45 p.m. 	
<p>Friday May 9th: Friday of Easter Week 7. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Devotions and Novena before Pentecost at 7.45 p.m. 	
<p>Saturday May 10th: Saturday of Easter Week 7. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. • Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m. • Benediction and Novena before Pentecost at 10.45 a.m. • Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass <p>First Mass of Sunday: VIGIL OF PENTECOST Sunday, at 5.45 p.m.</p>	<p>The following are requested to read next week end, May 10th/11th: Pentecost Sunday Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Tracy Butler Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins 12.00 p.m.: Eamon Grant</p>
<p>Sunday May 11th: Pentecost Sunday (Red)</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. Solemn Vespers and Benediction 	<p>Collections Sixth Sunday of Eastertide, 27th April: Offertory: £1,411 Second: Diocesan development Fund: £437</p> <p>Ascension Thursday Old Rite Mass Maintenance of our church: £217</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>THE SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for Catholic Communications</p>

TODAY

OUR MAY PROCESSION takes place today at 4 p.m. This is a lovely occasion, and we especially ask parents and grandparents to take note. We hope that more children will be there this year than were here last year to honour Our Lady! Remember—

Unless we show devotion, we will never grow in devotion!

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall after Saturday and Sunday Masses for **First Holy Communion gifts** & books, gifts for occasions of baptism, Confirmation, together with a wide selection of books, DVDs, CDs, statues etc., and Catholic newspapers. Come and see!

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession around the grounds.

THE NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST and MAY DEVOTIONS continue each weekday night, from Tuesday on (as Monday is a Bank Holiday), with Rosary at 7.45 p.m. followed by a short meditation about Our Lady, and ending with Benediction.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSHINGHAM is on Saturday 10th May. Please contact Anne Roebuck on 0121 454 0130 for details.

QUIZ NIGHT: fish & chips supper on Friday 9th May in Holy Family School Hall, Oldknow Road, Small Heath, starting at 7:30 pm. In aid of Youth Workers on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to

Lourdes. £5 entry per person, teams of 6. To confirm your team and supper contact 01212478252 or email Pauline McDonald at: pollygoggs@talktalk.net

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CORPUS CHRISTI is celebrated on Sunday 25th May. There are several important events connected with this great feast:

- 1) On the previous Thursday, there will be a Solemn High Mass and Procession in the 1962 rite at 8 p.m.
- 2) On the Sunday itself, the children of the Oratory Primary School will make their First Holy Communion at 12 noon Mass.
- 3) That same Sunday afternoon, there will be an Outdoor Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 4 p.m.

ASSOCIATION FOR LATIN LITURGY Spring Meeting at Gloucester on Saturday, May 31st, the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady. Includes Sung Mass at 12 noon and Vespers of Our Lady at 4.30 p.m. both in Gloucester Cathedral. Details are on the Notice Board. Price for day: £25. Telephone booking: 0115 950 4464. There may be some transport available; see Fr Guy.

NOTICE

COLLECTIONS: 1) Please think about the amount you give to the Collections. Do you think the Church can work on small change? 2) Parents please note—it is important to help your children to learn to contribute to the Church Collections at Mass. As well as giving to the Collections yourselves, please give your children something to put into the collection.

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!*

**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!**

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

