

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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July 18th 2010: SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



MARTHA AND MARY

Today's Gospel tells us of the familiar yet also puzzling conversation between Our Lord and Martha concerning her sister Mary's apparent unwillingness to help with the preparations for the meal they are all about to eat together.

St. Luke tells us that Martha was "distracted" with all the serving and eventually comes to Our Lord burning with indignation and challenges Him to admonish Mary, "Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do all the serving by myself? Please tell her to help me!"

It seems a reasonable request. Had Our Lord done as we would have thought was the reasonable and fair thing to do, and had asked Mary to help her sister, we should in all probability never have heard of this event. But in fact, as we know, Our Lord said something so extraordinary that it was written down and included in the Gospel: "Martha, Martha, you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one..." What can He be about to say to

her? It is hard to guess what this "one necessary thing" can be. Then He finishes what He wants to say: "It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her."

Here is what Cardinal Newman has to say about this in one of His Anglican Sermons:

'Mary's portion is the better of the two. Our Lord does not expressly say so, but He clearly implies it. If His words be taken literally, they might, indeed, even mean that Martha's heart was not right with Him, which, it is plain from other parts of the Gospel, they do not mean. Therefore, what Our Lord intimated surely was that Martha's portion was full of snares, as being one of worldly labour, but that Mary could not easily go wrong in hers; that we may be busy in a wrong way, but we cannot well adore Him except in a right one; that to serve God by prayer and praise continually, when we can do so consistently with other duties, is the pursuit of the "one thing needful", and emphatically He says "that good part shall not be taken from us."'

Another interesting "frequently asked question" is whether this Mary in today's Gospel, Martha's sister from Bethany, is the same person as Mary Magdalene, mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels as a close disciple of Our Lord's and as one from whom Jesus had driven out seven devils. There are different opinions. Most of the ancient Greek Fathers follow the accounts in St. Matthew's and St. Luke's Gospels and therefore believe that Mary of Bethany and Mary of Magdala were entirely different persons. Here in the West, however, the tradition has been to follow the indications in St. John's Gospel. St. John clearly identifies the anointing of Our Lord's feet with precious ointment as having been done by Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, at their home in Bethany. It is not totally clear why there are such apparent discrepancies between the Gospels though one interesting theory is that when St. Matthew and St. Luke wrote their Gospels, Mary was still alive and so those evangelists deliberately disguised her identity in the Gospel to spare her blushes. On the other hand, by the time St. John wrote His Gospel, the last of the New Testament writings as far as we can tell, Mary was long since dead and so no longer was it necessary to protect her from the embarrassment of being identified in this way.

This has interesting consequences for understanding today's Gospel passage. If this Mary is the same as the one who had been forgiven many sins in the reading from St. Luke's Gospel we heard at Mass on the eleventh Sunday last month, and as a consequence she loves Our Lord very much, then that explains her especial closeness to Our Lord which we hear about in today's Gospel. It also tells us that Our Lord's comment on her "choosing the better part" is in some way connected with her penitence, her sorrow for past sins. Our Lord clearly approves of this love and so He approves of the penitence that has inspired it. We can also remember this when we celebrate the feast of St. Mary Magdalene on Thursday this week.

Sunday July 18th: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 of the Lectionary at Weekday Mass and Psalter Week 4 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.

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| <p>Monday 19th July: Feria. (Green).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m. Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m. <p>Tuesday 20th July: Feria. (Green) . Optional memoria of St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr. (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m. Benediction at 8 p.m. <p>St Apollinaris (1st Century) was reputed to be a native of Antioch who became Bishop of Ravenna in North Eastern Italy where he was martyred. He is patron saint of epileptics.</p> <p>Wednesday 21st July: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Laurence of Brindisi, Priest. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m. <p>St Laurence of Brindisi (1559-1619) was a Capuchin Franciscan and a gifted linguist and biblical scholar who preached in most European countries, especially to Jews and Lutherans, eventually becoming Master General of his Order.</p> <p>Thursday 22nd July: St Mary Magdalene. Memoria. (White).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m. <p>St Mary Magdalene (see the front page on St. Mary of Bethany and St. Martha) according to the Gospels Mary of Magdala was set free by Our Lord from the power of seven devils, and was the first witness of the empty tomb before the risen Lord appeared to her in person and told her to announce the resurrection to the Apostles.</p> <p>Friday 23rd July: St Bridget of Sweden, Patroness of Europe. Feast. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m. <p>St Bridget of Sweden (1303-73) had eight children, of whom one was also a saint (Katherine of Vadstena). After her husband's death she founded a religious order dedicated to the Holy Saviour, known popularly after her as the Bridgettines. She also lived some time in Rome caring for the poor and sick and even offering advice to the popes of her day concerning serious Church and political problems. She died in Rome after returning there from a pilgrimage to the holy Land.</p> <p>Saturday 24th July: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Charbel Makhluf, Priest. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Mass at 8 a.m. (Nb. <u>No</u> Latin Mass at 9.30 a.m. until shrine is finished) Low Mass at 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 (Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time) at 5.45 p.m. <p>St Charbel Makhluf (d.1898) Son of a Lebanese mule driver, he became a monk. He was devoted to the Blessed Sacrament and was renowned for his holiness. He lived an austere life and spent the last twenty-five years living as a hermit. In the Universal Calendar, he is a representative of Lebanese Catholics of the Maronite Rite.</p> | <p>July 25th: the Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time: (Green)</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. High Mass 12.00 p.m. Families with young children 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational in English 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction <p>Please pray for the sick: Fr Patrick Brannagh, Brenda Molloy, Josephine Spooner, Imelda Martinez, Nick Usher-Somers, Teresa Wills, Ute Bowyer, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Kevan Bleach, Tony Farmer, Maurice Hynes, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, David Pritchard, Carolyn Knight, and Barbara Jarvis.</p> <p>Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Peter Russell; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Louis Brodeur of this Oratory, Josephine Pilley, Stanley Pilley, Philip Beesley, Rodger Kelly, Anthony Jukes, Kitty Toole, Kenneth West, Isabel Kuzminski, Richard Chang, Charles and Mary Holland and Sheila Newton</p> <p>The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, July 24th/25th 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Peter Bateman 12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood 5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey</p> <p>Collections last week:</p> <p>15th Sunday of the Year: 11th July, 2010 Offertory: £1,412 Second: Apostleship of the Sea: £571</p> <p>Donations: Cardinal Newman's shrine: £1,711 (Target £45,000) Many thanks</p> |
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| <p>TODAY</p> <p>THE SECOND COLLECTION this weekend will be towards the costs of setting up Cardinal Newman's shrine.</p> <p>THE PIETY STALL is open after all Masses and has a large selection of items including DVDs and books.</p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>There will be A HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning to pray for the success of Cardinal Newman's beatification and the Pope's visit.</p> <p>The ALTAR SOCIETY meets on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Oratory House.</p> <p>ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will take place this week on Wednesday this week starting at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 5 p.m. (There will not be a Mass).</p> <p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>NEXT WEEKEND there will be a Mission Appeal on behalf of the Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers) at all Masses, and the second collection will be for their work.</p> <p>The FRIENDS OF THE POOR CLARES Sponsored Walk and Summer BBQ take place on 1st August starting at 2 p.m. To register for the walk please contact Matthew Bowen: 07801 538 776. Please see poster for more details.</p> <p>The ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY at GRACE DIEU MANOR, Leicester, to pray for World Peace and for Young People, will take place on Sunday 22 August commencing with Mass at 3 p.m.</p> <p>THE BEATIFICATION OF CARDINAL NEWMAN will be on Sunday 19th September and it is essential that you book on a coach in order to gain access to the Beatification site. Travel to and from the site will be £15. Coaches will leave from and return <i>notto</i> the Oratory as previously stated, but at certain pick-up points around Birmingham. Full details will be given in due course. Forms are to be found at the back of church and completed forms must be returned to the Oratory in an envelope marked "Beatification". Please do not send to Pax Travel.</p> | <p>HOLY COMMUNION AT THE BEATIFICATION MASS: Those who are soon to be chosen by ballot will be informed in due course.</p> <p>THE POPE'S VISIT: When our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, comes to the Oratory on 19th September, straight after the beatification, he will be the first pilgrim to pray in the new shrine that will be in St Philip's Chapel. This is a tremendous honour, not only for Cardinal Newman, but also for our parish and community. For obvious reasons the visit will be very short and it will be completely private. Many thanks to those who have already made donations 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 but a great deal more is needed. We are also looking to recruit a team of volunteers to help us keep the church and shrine open to visitors after the beatification. Donations and offers of voluntary help may be made at anytime to Fr Richard by writing to him at the Oratory House or by emailing him rd@oxorat.org 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.</p> <p>NOTICES</p> <p>ACCOMMODATION NEEDED: Would any family willing to give short term accommodation (two-six weeks at the most) to a 20 year old woman who refuses to have an abortion and has been expelled from home, please either speak to Fr Guy as soon as possible, or else ring Nieve on 07966765954</p> <p>The CHOIR AT 5.30 MASS on Sundays welcomes new members. No previous experience of choir singing is necessary, nor ability to read music. Regular weekly attendance not essential. Simply turn up at 5 p.m. on any Sunday at the rear Organ gallery (entrance by the back door of the Church)</p> |
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