

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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July 11th 2010: FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?”

Our Lord is asked this question by a Lawyer in today's Gospel. He could simply have answered, “Everyone is your neighbour”, but He doesn't. Instead His reply is to tell one of His most famous “parables”, a short story with a spiritual message.

A man is mugged and left for dead by the roadside. Various people come along the road and see him. What do they do? A Jewish Priest and Levite (a servant of the Temple), both pass by. Why? There are two good reasons why they might do so: first, they realise that they might become “unclean” if they touch the man covered in blood, and so pass from him as far as possible, by crossing over “on the other side”. Remember, “being unclean” doesn't mean just *dirty*, but that they might not be allowed to perform their religious duties for a while. Secondly, there is a very real danger that if they hang around on the spot, they will expose themselves to the danger of being attacked by the same robbers, who can't be far away, always on the lookout for fresh victims.

Now since it is a Jewish Lawyer Our Lord is speaking to, he will have understood all the implications of this, and also of what Jesus says next. For the very next person to arrive at the scene is a Samaritan, one of a whole group of people, Jewish by race, but despised by the other Jews for their unfaithfulness to the Jewish religion. The Samaritans had long since been cut off from Jewish life because

they followed the practices of the pagan peoples who lived around and among them. Yet it is one of these people, not a fellow-Jew, who not only stops to see what he can do for the wounded man, but goes even further: he takes time and money to have the man looked after at the inn until he should recover. Moreover he makes an open-ended commitment on the man's behalf, telling the innkeeper that he will “*make good any extra expense you have*”.

“Which of these”, Jesus asks the Lawyer, “*showed himself to be a true neighbour?*” As usual, Our Lord challenges His questioner to answer his own question. This is, of course, what He invites all of us to do when we examine our conscience. How do we behave towards those who, whether intentionally or not, make great and unexpected demands of us, and even people who might not show gratitude to us? Do we justify staying out of it with any number of excuses, even really convincing ones, such as the Priest and the Levite had? Or do we recognise that God is asking *us* to do something regardless?

Yes, it may demand the sacrifice of our time, our money, or our expertise. It might be helping someone fill out an important form they find difficult to understand, or visiting a lonely and infirm person who might not necessarily be either interesting or pleasant, or helping the housebound with domestic chores or shopping. The point of the story is that we all have such challenges and opportunities. We are called to be good neighbours for the love of God and in faithfulness to Christ's teaching and example.

A DAY WITH MARY

“A Day with Mary” will be held here on Saturday. It is a day of prayer organized by the Mission of the Immaculate Mediatrix Movement, which is founded and guided by the Franciscans of the Immaculate (friars and sisters), inspired by the spirituality of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe. The “Day” is based on the message of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917. She requested: “*Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.*” The Day will include Mass, Scripture, Rosary, Meditation on the Passion, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, Processions of the Blessed Sacrament and of Our Lady, Act of Consecration, Theological Instructions, and the opportunity to enrol in the Brown Scapular and the Miraculous Medal. ***We hope that you will take up the wonderful opportunities and graces on offer this Day.*** (Details overleaf).

Sunday July 11th: Fifteenth 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 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 12th July: FERIA. (Green).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m.**

Tuesday 13th July: FERIA. (Green). Optional memoria of St Henry. (White)

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

St Henry (973-1024) Crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 995, Henry II concerned himself with supporting the reorganisation of the Church. He and his wife, Cunegund (who was also canonised) did much to help the poor and were zealous supporters of Benedictine monasticism.

Wednesday 14th July: FERIA. (Green). Optional memoria of St Camillus of Lellis, Priest. (White)

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St Camillus (1550-1614) His dissolute life as an Italian soldier of fortune and a gambler changed after he heard a particular sermon. He joined the Franciscans but a diseased leg forced him to leave and his sufferings led him to care for the sick, but the hospitals were appalling and the care of the patients brutal. He became a penitent of St Philip Neri who advised him to become a priest, after which he founded the "Camillans" dedicated to the care of the sick; he sent the first recorded medical unit to troops. Despite his own increasing sufferings, he served the sick until his death.

Thursday 15th July: St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor. Memoria. (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**

St Bonaventure (1221-74) His baptismal name was John but he acquired the name we know him as after he was miraculously cured as a child by St Francis of Assisi who exclaimed "*O buona ventura!*" (i.e. good fortune). He became Minister general of the Franciscans and Cardinal Bishop of Albano. A friend of St Thomas Aquinas, he was also a theologian and author, his writings earning him the title of "Seraphic Doctor"

Friday 16th July: FERIA. (Green). Optional memoria of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. (White)

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

Our Lady of Mount Carmel: This day honours the purity of Our Lady's faith as celebrated by the hermits who established a community on Mt Carmel on the site of the Prophet Elijah's victory over the priests of the pagan god Baal. Our Lady has appeared under this title both to St Simon Stock in 1251, to whom she gave the Brown Scapular, and more recently on 13 October 1917 to the seers at Fatima.

Saturday 17th July: FERIA. (Green) Optional memoria of St Kenelm. (Red)

- **Low Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **(Nb. No Latin Mass at 9.30 a.m.)**
- **A DAY WITH MARY: from 10 a.m.—5.15 p.m.**
- **Entry Procession of Our Lady at 10 a.m.**
- **Mass at 11 a.m.**
- **Exposition & Procession of the Blessed Sacrament 1.30.**
- **Confessions at various times throughout the day**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Kenelm (c. 800) Mentioned in the Canterbury Tales, this Anglo-Saxon Christian prince was reputedly martyred at or near Clent where a church is dedicated to him.

July 18th: the Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time: (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 in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Fr Patrick Brannagh, Brenda Molloy, Josephine Spooner, Imelda Martinez, Nick Usher-Somers, Teresa Wills, Thelma Havelin, May Colquhoun, Kevan Bleach, Tony Farmer, Maurice Hynes, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, David Pritchard, Carolyn Knight, and Barbara Jarvis.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Sr Joan Lennon and William O'Leary;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Geoffrey Walmsley of this Oratory, Kathleen McNamee, William Wall, Beryl Roebuck, Vivian Beesley, Zigmund Denby, Anthony Curtis, Charles Mary Lellan and Bridget Corbett

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, July 17th/18th 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 5.45 p.m: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Chris Sammons
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

14th Sunday of the Year: 4th July, 2010
Offertory: £1,397
Second: Costs of the Beatification: £737
Donations: Cardinal Newman's shrine: £920 (Target £45,000)
Many thanks

TODAY

THE SECOND COLLECTION this weekend will be for the Apostleship of the Sea.

ORATORY PATRICIANS DISCUSSION GROUP meets this afternoon at 3.15 in the Oratory House. All are welcome to attend. The subject will be the Papal Visit.

THE PIETY STALL: On sale today, exclusively here in the U.K. is the acclaimed DVD about Fatima "*The 13th Day*". The film has been described as "The Best Film Ever Made About Fatima" and is a remarkable retelling of the story. Also, new in stock is the acclaimed film "No Greater Love", a documentary film about the life of the Carmelite nuns in London.

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 Cardinal Newman's beatification and the Pope's visit.

The ALTAR SOCIETY meets on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Oratory House.
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).

A DAY WITH MARY: will be held here on Saturday commencing at 10 a.m. It is a day of instruction, devotion and intercession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. The day will include a procession and crowning of Our Lady's statue; Holy Mass; Exposition; Rosaries; Act of Consecration; enrolment in the Brown Scapular; Confession; Benediction. Full details of the Day's programme are at the doors of the church. There is a small change in that the sermons will be given by visiting priests of the Franciscans of The Immaculate.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND will be towards the costs of setting up Cardinal Newman's shrine.

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 *not* to 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.

HOLY COMMUNION AT THE BEATIFICATION MASS: We are very fortunate to be able to have twenty people from this Oratory to have the honour of receiving Holy Communion from Pope Benedict himself at the Beatification Mass. The names will be chosen by ballot. Please complete a form, at the back of church, and place in the box there. The people whose names are picked out will be informed in due course.

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.**