

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.

August 31st 2008: THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

The Provost writes:

THE MYSTERY OF THE CROSS



One of the most successful musicals of recent years, showing at the moment in London's West End, is called "Wicked". It tells the story of the early life of some of the characters who crop up in the equally famous film "The Wizard of Oz." One of the cast of "Wicked" sings a song which explains his personal philosophy: "Dancing through life": "Life is painless for the brainless" he tells us. It doesn't do to be serious, it's best to live life on the surface.

Now, we can take ourselves too seriously and that is not a good thing, but "dancing through life" certainly seems to be the basic idea for many of our contemporaries, who endeavour to blot out the harsher realities of our existence with a cocktail of various distractions and addictions.

In the face of this, this weekend's Gospel brings us up short. When Our Lord speaks about the grim realities He is called upon to face, St Peter is appalled. Surely not, he exclaims – nothing so serious, so calamitous could befall the One he had just hailed as the Christ, the Son of the

Living God. St Peter had to learn, however, as we must all learn sooner or later, that we cannot go dancing through life. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me". Our Lord is telling us that if we gain the whole world but lose Him, in the end we have gained nothing and that if we lose the whole world but remain faithful to Him, in the end we have lost nothing.

St Peter, in seeking to deny Our Lord His Passion is, in effect, seeking to deny the possibility of true happiness. Pope Benedict XVI expresses it thus: "*It is only by freeing himself through suffering that man finds himself, that he finds his truth, his joy, his happiness.*" No matter how painful our sharing in the Cross might prove to be, no matter how much we are mocked or misunderstood by the world because of our wanting to live to the full our relationship with Our Lord, we should seek to penetrate more and more deeply what the Cross means. Pope Benedict again: "*The Cross forces us to look upon the fact that we are loved by God. The Cross becomes a new centre of gravity for the bringing together of what is divided.*"

How many times in the course of the day do we make the Sign of the Cross? Each time we make it, we should in some way express the desire to receive the grace to live the Sign of the Cross. We seek to live out each moment the demands that obedient love places on us in our daily lives: all those small acts of choosing the other instead of the self; all those small daily sacrifices of self-will which can be taken up into the one great Sacrifice of the Saviour's Cross.

It is not easy, carrying the Cross. Dancing through life seems so much easier. If we choose that path, we may indeed gain temporary benefits and pleasures, but what will we have lost in the long run?

CARDINAL NEWMAN'S CAUSE

As the Cardinal's Cause moves towards what we hope and pray will be a successful conclusion the pressures on those involved increase daily. This stressful time is not being made any easier for us by some of the erroneous and muddled items which have appeared in the press and media in recent days and with which we have to contend. Please pray for all working for the Cause – perhaps you might make a Novena to Cardinal Newman himself or to St Philip – for the graces needed.

Sunday August 31st: The Twenty-second Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 2

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| • 8.30 a.m. <i>Low Mass</i> | • 12.00 p.m. <i>(Families with young children)</i> |
| • 9.30 a.m. <i>1962 rite Mass (in the church)</i> | • 5.30 p.m. <i>Low Mass (during August)</i> |
| • 10.30 a.m. <i>High Mass</i> | • 7.30 p.m. <i>Solemn Vespers and Benediction</i> |

TWENTY-SECOND WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Monday to Friday:

Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Rosary at 7.45 p.m.

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

Monday September 1st: Feria. (Green).

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

Tuesday September 2nd: Feria. (Green)

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

Wednesday September 3rd: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Apostle of the English. (White)

St Gregory the Great: (c.540-604) Born in Rome, the son of a wealthy senator, he was a natural leader and became Chief Magistrate of Rome. He used some of his wealth to found monasteries in Sicily, and when he joined the Benedictines himself, he converted his ancestral home on the Caelian Hill into a monastery. In 590, he was elected Pope, the first monk to be chosen for that office. He was a great diplomat, brokering peace between warring factions in Italy. He reformed Church administration and in the process, raised large sums of money which he used to ransom prisoners, to help the poor and the victims of war. He also protected the Jews. He maintained the Church's independence from the State and restored discipline throughout the Church. He embellished the liturgy in its sacramentary, and in the use of chant. Most importantly for us, he had a great interest in England and sent St Augustine (of Canterbury) and forty of his fellow monks from the Pope's own monastery to be missionaries here. The Pope maintained a keen interest in their progress, hence his title "Apostle of the English". It is significant that Pope St Gregory called himself 'the servant of the servants of God', a designation adopted by all subsequent popes.

Thursday September 4th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Cuthbert, Bishop. (White)

St Cuthbert (634-687) As a young shepherd boy in Northumbria, he had a dream of St Aidan being led to heaven by angels, and determined to become a monk. Eventually, he joined the abbey at Melrose from where he made long journeys on foot to visit souls in the remotest parts of Berwick and Galloway. He moved to Lindisfarne and was appointed Bishop. He travelled throughout his extensive see, preaching, counselling and helping the poor. Following the Synod of Whitby, he set about reforming the English Church to adopt Roman customs. He cared for the sick when plague ravished the diocese and was a renowned miracle worker during his lifetime. After the Vikings destroyed the monastery at Lindisfarne, his body was found to be incorrupt and was removed to Durham Cathedral.

Friday September 5th: Feria. (Green)

Saturday September 6th: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or Feria. (Green)

- **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 and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**
- **First Mass of Sunday: Twenty-third Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

Sunday September 7th : The Twenty-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: Sr Anne of the Holy Spirit D.C., Brenda O'Donaghue, Carole Halls, Kitty O'Driscoll, Marion Arnott-Job, Evelyn Arrigho, Marie-Therese Jones, Patrick Hurley, 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: Mike Marshall, Margaret and David Leather, Agnes Sidebottom and Ivy Coutts.

The following are requested to read next weekend, September 6th/7th: Twenty-third Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m. Sr Hilary
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections

21st Sunday of the Year, 24th August:
Offertory: £1,327
Second: Oratory Priests' Training
Fund: £531

Thank you

Second Collection today is for the DDF

TODAY

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall.

The ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON HALL in honour of St. John Wall and the English Martyrs, takes place this afternoon. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m. by Bishop Kenney. Tours of the Hall can be made by prior arrangement, by telephoning 01562 777846. Tea is available after Mass. **N.B. Take your own chairs if needed.**

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place on Wednesday, afternoon commencing with Mass at 2.30, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and ending with Benediction.

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH OF LINCOLN meets on Saturday, 6th September at 10.15 a.m. in the Oratory House. All are welcome.

FRIENDS OF THE POOR CLARES COFFEE MORNING will be held from 10—12 noon on Saturday at the convent in Rising Lane, Baddesley Clinton. Fun for all the family. (See the Notice Boards for more details).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HCPT (Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust) is holding a Charity Concert in aid of sending disadvantaged children to Lourdes next Easter, to be given by the Band of the West Midlands Fire Service on Saturday 27th September at 7.30 p.m. in

Newman University College. For Tickets (£7 or £5 concessions) ring 07900272094.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: Meetings recommence on Friday, 19th September (12-2 p.m.) . (Please see posters for more details). They will be studying and discussing *Saint Gianna Molla, Wife Mother, Doctor*. The book is available on the Piety Stall, priced at £8.95, but a refund of approximately 12.5% will be given to those who attend the book club.

ANNUAL NEWMAN PILGRIMAGE TO LITTLEMORE takes place on Saturday 4th October. The trip will include a tour of the College, Confessions, Mass at the Church Of Blessed Dominic Barberi (Celebrant and Preacher: Bishop Kenney), a talk on "Newman and St Paul", and Benediction at the Carmelite Priory at Boar's Hill, Oxford. Tea and coffee will be provided at lunch-time, but you will need to take a packed lunch. Coach leaves the Oratory at 9.00 a.m. and returns at 6.45 p.m. (approx). Cost £20. Booking forms are available at the church doors.

NOTICES

READERS AT MASS: If you would like to become a reader at 5.45 p.m. Saturday Mass or at the 8.30 a.m., 12 noon, or 5.30 p.m. Sunday Masses, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please give you name, address, telephone no. and, if appropriate, your email address *in writing* to one of the Fathers, or email the parish secretary (address overleaf).