

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE
Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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May 2nd 2010: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE



A little while, and now you shall not see Me

CITIZENS OF THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT

In today's Gospel reading from the Last Supper discourse in St. John, Our Lord gives us a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you". As Catholics we know that we are called to become like our Lord in a way that goes far beyond the ordinary standards of this world, and yet we are called upon to begin to do so *within* this world. This would be impossible except for the power of God's grace in the Church's Sacraments. Of course, very few of us actually get close to that kind of perfection in this life, yet that does not mean that we should give up trying.

We are called to be citizens of heaven, "saints", as the Apostles put it in their New Testament letters to the early Christian congregations they had founded. Yet we also have to live out our Christian life in this world, too. We are citizens of this world insofar as we have to contribute to the Common Good. One of the most fundamental ways in which we can do this is by exercising our

right to vote in democratic elections.

This coming Thursday is an important day in our lives as citizens of this world. Once in every five years we have an opportunity, perhaps we should even see it as a *duty*, to cast our vote for the candidate(s) who seems to us to be best qualified to protect our society. Such protection can only truly come about when God's law is followed. That is why the Church always insists on the fundamental importance of respecting human life in all its stages, from natural conception to natural death. We should make it our business to find out what the candidates who seek our support actually intend to do with the power we give them, and let them know that this will certainly affect the way we cast our vote. **The last Parliament was the most anti-Christian and anti-life in this country's history and the next will probably be no better unless we help to make it so.** We now have an opportunity to try and redress the balance and seek the election of those who will uphold Christ's teaching and God's law. This teaching is not some narrow Christian concern—it is for the common good of all citizens. Nothing that Christ and His Church teach about human nature and life is "partisan", as though it only applied to Catholics or Christians. One often hears it said that Christians should not "impose" their "views" on society as a whole. Yet note how even many non-believers who hold some position to be central to their lives will fight to see it defended even though it means imposing it on others! **But there can be no position more central, more fundamental, than life itself.** Take that away and nothing is left. You can't benefit from the common good or have any rights at all if you have been killed off in the womb!

Sometimes one hears criticism of the pro-life movement even by some Catholics, on the grounds that it is "over-zealous". Yet as Archbishop Chaput of Denver, USA, says: "Every political movement has its zealots and opportunists. Political engagement will sometimes be marked by excesses of enthusiasm and a lack of prudence. And some people will inevitably seek to use the Gospel and the Church for their own partisan advantage. But Christians are called to be the best of good citizens. We have a duty to work for justice and the common good. We may not excuse ourselves from that obligation by citing the foolishness, selfishness, or hypocrisy of others, or the human imperfections of the political causes that deserve our energetic support." We should reflect carefully on what the Archbishop says here. We have no right to excuse ourselves from this battle simply because it is uncomfortable or because we don't agree with the way some people are struggling to defend the good.

You will find at the Church doors a sheet with information which has been gathered from the candidates for Edgbaston and Ladywood constituencies, in which most of us live, which you may find helpful in assessing how they intend to vote in parliament should we help to send them there. Please give this information your careful consideration before voting on Thursday, and may God guide us all in our choices!

Sunday May 2nd: Fifth Sunday of Eastertide (White)

- 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 1 in the Divine Office

Monday—see over. Tuesday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. May Devotions at 8 p.m. (Rosary 7.45 p.m.)

Holy Hour: Each Weekday except Monday from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. .

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

Monday 3rd May: St Philip & St James, Apostles. Feast (Red) Bank Holiday

- **Holy Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only. No holy Hour this morning.**
- **No evening Mass or Devotions.**

Sts Philip & James were two of the Apostles. Philip came from Bethsaida in Galilee and is mentioned both in St. John's Gospel and in the Acts of the Apostles (8:4 ff. And 8:26 ff.) In the Gospel we are told that he said to Our Lord at the Last Supper "Show us the Father and we shall be satisfied", to which Our Lord replied, "Have you been with me so long, Philip and still you do not know me? to see me is to see the Father."

James is also known as "the Less" to distinguish him from the brother of St. John. Nonetheless, this St. James wrote the New Testament Letter which bears his name and which teaches the importance of Good Works as the fruit and expression of living faith.

Tuesday 4th May: The English Martyrs. Memoria. (Red)

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

The English Martyrs have been celebrated altogether on this date for well over a century, since Pope Leo XIII beatified over one hundred of our fellow countrymen and women who gave their lives for the Catholic faith between 1535 and 1685. Since then, many others have been added to their number and forty of them are now canonised saints.

Wednesday 5th May: Wednesday of Easter (White).

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Adoration in the Cloister Chapel; Holy Mass 2.30—Benediction 4.30 p.m.**
- **May Devotions at 8 p.m.**

Thursday 6th May: Thursday of Easter. (White)

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

Friday 7th May: Friday of Easter (White)

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

Saturday 8th May: Saturday of Easter (White).

- **Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**
- **Latin Mass 1962 Missal at 9.30 a.m. in St Philip's Chapel**
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30—10.45 a.m.**
- **Benediction at 10.45 a.m.**
- **Confessions from 1.55 a.m. to 12 noon & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter) at 5.45 p.m.**

May 9th: The Sixth Sunday of Easter : (White) 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)**
- **4.00 p.m. Procession and Crowning of Our Lady's Statue.**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Carmel Pugh, Geoff Jones, Kevan Bleach, Pat Cartwright, Elizabeth Caswell, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Tony Farmer.

Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Patrick Nash;
and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: George Butcher, Freila Stokes, Nancy Smith and Matthew Thirlaway

Patrick Nash's Requiem will be on Tuesday at 11 a.m.
Reception of remains: Monday at 4.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, May 8th/9th The Sixth Sunday of Easter:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Jenni Hardwick
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

Fourth Sunday of Easter: 25th April, 2010
Offertory: £1,743
Second: Diocesan Priests' Training Fund: £594

Thank you

TODAY

THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses. **THIS WEEK**

There will be A HOLY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning until further notice to pray for the success of Cardinal Newman's beatification and the Pope's visit.

MAY DEVOTIONS take place every weekday evening (except Bank holiday Monday) beginning with Rosary at 7.45 and continuing with meditation, prayers and Benediction at 8 p.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in the Cloister Chapel will take place on Wednesday. There will be Holy Mass (at 2.30 p.m.), the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayers and the afternoon will end with Benediction at c. 4.30 p.m.

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Saturday 8th May: *Please note that the Oratory coach is fully booked.*

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP (20-35) meet on Thursday 6th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. A talk will be given by Dom Brendan Thomas OSB on "Beauty: The Language of God".

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE PROCESSION AND CROWNING OF OUR LADY'S STATUE will take place on Sunday 9th May at 4 p.m. Please bring your children and

friends from other parishes to this beautiful devotion in honour of the Queen of Heaven.

ILLUSTRATED TALKS ON THE EARLY CHRISTIAN SAINTS: A short series of talks will be given in the Upper Cloister Hall on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd May, by Brother John Parker, S. M. who is an expert in Christian Roman History. (Many of you will remember his wonderful talks last year on the Catacombs.) Full details will follow.

NOTICES

APF RED BOX HOLDERS: Please collect your replacement boxes from the back of church or the sacristy if you have not yet done so. Many thanks.

ANNIE BRIGHT WESTON RESIDENTIAL HOME (Sisters of Charity of St Paul) in Norfolk Road have another vacancy of a single bedroom for a lady over 65 years of age in their residential home. (Please note: this is not a nursing home). It has its own chapel and Mass is celebrated most days. For further information, please contact the manager on 0121 454 1289.

The PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE is available for all who wish to welcome Our Lady to their home. Our Lady's prayers are all powerful with God. She will not only pray for our deepest needs and intentions, but will also help us to find the way to renew prayer in our lives. At Fatima, Our Lady emphasised the importance of the Rosary. Leading to the Beatification, we ask those who have the Statue to especially include in their prayers the Oratory, its Priests and its congregation. *Forms are at the church doors.*

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!

Then:

Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
For the Lord is risen indeed, 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!

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

