

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.

February 3rd 2008: Fourth Sunday of the Year (Quinquagesima)

The Provost writes:



The Beatitudes

The Gospel this Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time presents us with the opening words of Our Lord's great Sermon on the Mount, the words we call the Beatitudes. In these well-known words our Saviour indicates to us the qualities that mark life in His Kingdom, the virtues which must adorn the citizens of God's country. It is the Gospel we hear often on the feast days of saints, and especially on the Feast of All Saints in November, as if to remind us that the Beatitudes draw a picture for us of what a saint must be like. It is a Gospel that teaches us what it is to be holy, what it is to seek to be holy, to seek to be a saint. Of course, the Beatitudes also describe Our Lord Himself, and as Christ looks at us, His disciples, the Beatitudes are also the fruit which He seeks to bring forth from our lives. Pope Benedict XVI describes it thus: *"The Beatitudes express the meaning of discipleship.... what the Beatitudes mean cannot be expressed in purely theoretical terms; it is proclaimed in the life and suffering, and in the mysterious joy, of the disciple who gives himself over completely to following the Lord."* That is what we are all called to do, that is what makes us holy, makes us saints – our ever closer following of Our Lord. The Beatitudes show us that power, wealth, earthly success, pride, self-satisfaction, egotism, are not the recipe for true happiness. As Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta taught, this lies in surrender of self, in the acceptance of God's will, and in the joyful realisation that it is these things which matter above all else.

Quinquagesima

As the countdown to Lent continues we reach Quinquagesima (fifty days) and Ash Wednesday is almost upon us. To help us prepare for this holy season we have the Archbishop's Lenten Pastoral Letter this weekend. He bases his thoughts on the latest Papal Encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, and urges us to meditate this year on the hope we gain from our knowledge of God's justice and merciful love, which we will experience first hand in the Final Judgement and in Purgatory. If you haven't read *Spe Salvi* try to read a copy (available on the piety stall) – it is both beautiful and inspiring.

Lent

The Gospel of the Beatitudes and the message of the Archbishop's Letter can both help us keep a good Lent. The season starts this Wednesday (the earliest Lent since 1913!) when we should all seek to receive the Ashes. These are a sign of our penance undertaken at this time of year, but also, as one spiritual writer put it, the ashy grime reminds us of the mess we often make of our lives and the need we have for the cleansing waters of the sacraments of Baptism and Penance to clean us up. As we move towards Easter we take part in that wonderful process of renewal which culminates in our re-birth in the light of the Resurrection. Lent is not meant to be a hard slog, but a joyful time when we discover anew what it means to be on the path of holiness, and what we must do in order to tread that path more securely. By all means give something up (TV, some foodstuff, drink, gossip(!)) in order to learn how much we depend on God, but also do something extra, whether in Church, in charitable acts, in deepening your knowledge of the faith (reading, coming to the talks on conscience etc., etc.) As Cardinal Newman put it: *"When the divine voice quickens us from the dust in which we lie, it is to call us to a dignity higher even than that which was ours in the beginning."*

Finally:

Don't forget the Mass for the Sick on February 9th, and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on the 11th (somewhat muted this year because of Lent). There is a special Plenary Indulgence this year because of the 150th anniversary of the Apparitions. Details elsewhere on the Newsletter

Sunday February 3rd: The Fourth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass

- 8.30 a.m. **Low Mass**
- 9.30 a.m. **Tridentine Mass (in the church)**
- 10.30 a.m. **Solemn High Mass**
- 12.00 p.m. **(Families with young children)**
- 5.30 p.m. **Sung Congregational Mass**
- **Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m.**

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. STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS IN LENT: 1.10 & 8 p.m.

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

Monday February 4th: Feria. (Green)

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

Tuesday February 5th: St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr. (Red)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction in St Philip's Chapel.

St Agatha (3rd century) was a young virgin martyr of Catania in Sicily whose cult became very widespread in the early Church, leading to the inclusion of her name in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

**Wednesday February 6th: ASH WEDNESDAY (Purple)
DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE***

- **Blessing and imposition of Ashes at all Masses: 7.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. (Tridentine), 12.45, 5.45 p.m. and High Mass at 8 p.m.**
- (Oratory Primary School: Liturgy of the Word, Blessing and imposition of Ashes (without Mass) at 9.15 a.m.)
- N.b. During Lent, the word "Alleluia" is omitted at all times until the Easter Vigil, **even on Feast Days**

***Fasting** consists of eating one full meal at any point during the day, and at two other times taking only a "light collation" or snack. All persons between their 18th birthday and their 60th birthday are obliged to keep this law. **Abstinence** from meat and food containing meat products must be observed by all who have reached their 14th birthday.

Thursday February 7th: Thursday after Ash Wednesday. (Purple)

Friday February 8th: Friday after Ash Wednesday. (Purple). Commemoration of St Jerome Emiliani, Priest; or of St Josephine Bakhita, Religious.

- **Stations of the Cross at 1.10 and 8 p.m.**

St Jerome Emiliani (d. 1527) A soldier in Venice, he was converted and dedicated his life to the care of others, especially the sick and orphans (whose patron saint he is). He was the founder of the order of clerks regular (priests under religious vows living a community life) named the *Somaschi*.

St Josephine Bakhita (1868-1947) Although born into a wealthy Sudanese family, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Eventually she was bought by an Italian Consul who planned to free her. He took her to Italy where she was well treated and converted to the Faith. She joined the Canossian sisters in Venice where she became renowned for her care of the poor and suffering. Her biography was published in 1930 and she was much sought-after as a speaker, raising funds for the missions. She was canonised in 2000 as the first Sudanese saint.

Saturday February 9th: Saturday after Ash Wednesday (Purple)

- **Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. (Mass with Anointing of the Sick)**
- **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 & from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass**

Sunday February 10th: The FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Purple)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin Mass 1962 Missal** (Please note new time—now in Church)
- **10.30 a.m. Solemn High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass in English**
- **Vespers and Benediction: 7.30 p.m.**

Please pray for the sick Isaac Brown, Michael Miller, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Marianne Jarvis, Dorothy Price, Ellen Westwood, Tommy Smyth, Margaret Casey, Jacqueline Griffiths, Frank McGuinness, George Saunders, Desmond Williams and Jeanette Dunkley.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: May O'Farrell and Marian Briscoe;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Lewis Bellasis and Fr Henry Tristram, both of this Oratory, Dorothy Bowyer, Rose & Ted Kelly, Robert Wilkie, John Beardsmore, Ethel Griffiths, John Brunt, Mary Beesley, Jack Quigley, Catherine McAlinden, Elizabeth Donnelly, Mary Lawler and Hugh Ramsey.

The following are requested to read next weekend, February 9th/10th: The 1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Tracey Butler
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections

The 3rd Sunday of the Year, 27th January:
Offertory: £1,694
Second: Catholic Education fund: £457
Thank you

The second Collection today will be for the Diocesan Development fund

TODAY

ST. BLAISE'S BLESSING OF THROATS will be given after each Mass today.

'WALK WITH ME', The Archbishop's companion to Lent: Books are to be found by the back door and cost £1. There is also a Calendar, (30p) especially designed for children. We encourage you to buy these aids to prayer life during this holy season, and for those who you know who are housebound, and perhaps for members of your family who no longer go to church.

THIS WEEK

ORATORY PRIMARY SCHOOL TALKS FOR PARENTS / Carers: The third in this important series of talks is on Monday from 2.00—3.15 p.m. in the Oratory School Hall, on the subject of **Sex Education**, and is open to all parents of children in the school. The title of the talk is: **"Family Life and Relationships: The Truth & Meaning of Human Sexuality."** The talk will be given by Antonia Tully, who works for SPUC's **Safe at School** campaign, supporting parents against government policy which promotes sex education in primary schools. We hope that, if at all possible, parents will attend these very important talks.

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on *Friday*, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m.

ANNUAL MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK: The sick, elderly and disabled, together with their families, are invited to join the Knights of Malta at a special Mass on Saturday at 11 a.m.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LENTEN TALKS this year will begin on Saturday, February 16th (not on February 8th on account of the Mass for the Sick). Following on from our very successful talks on Purgatory, the Fathers will present a series on the important matter of "**Conscience**". The talks will be given, as usual, in the Lower Cloister Hall after the 11 a.m. Mass.

ANNE WIDDECOMBE and guests will be speaking at a rally in Coventry Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13th to inform on Life issues and the Human Fertilisation & Embryology bill going through parliament. (01925 220999 for further information).

The ANNIVERSARY of CARDINAL NEWMAN'S BIRTH: 21st February: There will be a service of music, preaching and prayer at 7.30 p.m. The subject will be *Newman on Lent*. In addition to music by the choir, Dr Francis Jackson, CBE will be the guest organist.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Monday 11th. To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions, the Pope has announced a Plenary Indulgence obtainable on the 11th, in certain churches (inc ours), under the usual conditions. (Confession, Holy Communion, and prayers for the Pope (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Creed)