

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

*This newsletter is available in large-print format. Ask at the Sacristy.*

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## May 16th 2010: SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION



### CHRIST IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH

Our Risen Lord's triumphant journey to heaven in the presence of His disciples is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and in the Acts of the Apostles. In the Acts, St. Luke tells us that this event took place after Our Lord had remained on the earth for forty days after His resurrection, during which time He continued to prepare them for the Kingdom of God and for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The fortieth day after Easter was, of course, last Thursday, which in many places is still celebrated as Ascension Day. Nowadays we keep this feast today, on the nearest Sunday to the fortieth day after Easter.

The Ascension has many important things to teach us. First of all, it is the event in which our human nature has at last entered heaven. Until Our Lord became man, all human beings who ever lived were unable to go to live in God's presence in heaven at the end of their earthly lives. It was the common belief of most people in the ancient world that any life after death was, at best, a rather "shadowy" kind of existence. The Hebrews called this afterlife "Sheol", and it was more akin to a living death than to real life. Then Our Lord came as the Redeemer and Saviour of all mankind. He alone was able to open the gates of heavenly life to mankind. He did this by His own life, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. Where He has gone before us, we hope finally to be able to follow Him, if we are faithful.

Secondly, The Ascension teaches us something about Our Lord's continuing presence on earth, even now. For His departure would, at first sight, seem to be a sad occasion. Yet St. Luke tells us that the Apostles, after witnessing the Ascension, went back to Jerusalem rejoicing. How is this possible? Well, they had heard Our Lord say to them immediately before His leaving them: "*Behold, I am with you always, even until the end of the world.*" How would Our Lord be able to be "with them always" while He was leaving them for heaven? To understand this we can think about the way that a very wise Pope once put it. St. Leo the Great said that after His Ascension into heaven, everything that had been in Our Lord's human nature here on earth had now passed into the Sacraments.

Now it is only possible for the Sacraments to be the living presence of Our Lord here on earth because the Holy Spirit is at work within them. It is the Holy Spirit who makes the water of baptism able to cleanse our souls as well as our bodies. It is the Holy Spirit who gives grace and strength to us in the oil of anointing at Confirmation. It is the Holy Spirit who by His divine power changes the bread and wine into our Lord's living Body and Blood in Holy Mass and Communion.

As Our Lord said to His Apostles during the Last Supper: "*It is good for you that I am going away; because if I do not go, the Holy Spirit cannot come.*" We might have wondered why the coming of the Holy Spirit was so important until we realise that the Spirit makes Our Lord present in His Church's Sacraments.

### PREPARING FOR PENTECOST

Since the coming of the Holy Spirit is so important for the life of the Church, we can begin to see why the Feast of Pentecost is so central to the Church's year. Pentecost, which means the "fiftieth day" after Easter, falls next Sunday. Our holy Mother the Church encourages us all to get ready to celebrate the feast, not as a mere memorial of a past event, but as a yearly renewal of the life of the Holy Spirit in each of us and in the Church as a whole family. To this end we invite you to take part in the Evening Service of prayer and praise each weekday evening this week, to prepare for Pentecost.

Monday this week is also the beginning of the Novena for the Feast of our holy Father St. Philip, which is on Wednesday next week, 26th May. Please join the Fathers in praying to St. Philip for the welfare of the Oratory here in Birmingham, especially as we approach the momentous day of the beatification of St. Philip's disciple, Cardinal Newman, our founder.

### Sunday May 16th: Ascension (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 3 in the Divine Office

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. Novena for Pentecost and St. Philip's Day 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 17th May: Monday of Easter. (White)**

- **Holy Hour from 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Novena for Pentecost and St. Philip's Day at 8.00 p.m. (following Rosary at 7.45 p.m.)**

**Tuesday 18th May: Tuesday of Easter. (White). Optional memoria of St John I, Pope and Martyr. (Red)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Novena for Pentecost and St. Philip's Day at 8 p.m.**

**St John I** (d. 526) His short Pontificate was largely taken up by peace negotiations between the Eastern Emperor and the Gothic King who ultimately imprisoned the Pope at Ravenna where he died.

**Wednesday 19th May: Wednesday of Easter (White). Optional memorias of St Dunstan, Bishop. (White)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Adoration in the Cloister Chapel; Holy Mass 2.30—Benediction 4.30 p.m.**
- **Novena for Pentecost and St. Philip's Day at 8 p.m.**

**St Dunstan** was Archbishop of Canterbury in the tenth century.

**Thursday 20th May: Thursday of Easter. (White). Optional memoria of St Bernardine of Siena, Priest. (White)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Novena for Pentecost and St. Philip's Day at 8 p.m.**

**St Bernardine of Siena** was a Franciscan who popularised devotion to the Holy Name.

**Friday 21st May: Friday of Easter. (White) Optional memoria of St Christopher Magellanes, Priest and Companions. Martyrs. (Red)**

- **Holy Hour 8 a.m.—9 a.m.**
- **Novena for Pentecost and St. Philip's Day at 8 p.m.**

**St Christopher Magellanes & Comps.** were martyred in Mexico in the 1920's and '30's

**Saturday 22nd May: Saturday of Easter. (White). Optional memoria of St Rita of Cascia, Religious. (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 (Solemnity of Pentecost) at 5.45 p.m.**

**St Rita of Cascia** is a popular Italian patron saint invoked in marital difficulties.

**May 23rd: Solemnity of Pentecost:**

(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)**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

**Please pray for the sick** Carol Kuzcerawy, Kevan Bleach, Pat Cartwright, Elizabeth Caswell, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, Verity Caldwell and Tony Farmer.

**Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: ;**

**and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Lara Marshall, Joan Murphy, Christopher Duffy, Bridget Shields and Violet Pinel

**The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, May 22nd/23rd Pentecost:**

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

**Collections:**

Sixth Sunday of Easter: 9th May, 2010  
Offertory: £1,596  
Second: Music in our church: £735

*Thank you*

#### TODAY

**THE SECOND COLLECTION** will be for the Diocesan Development Fund  
**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.

**NOVENA FOR PENTECOST AND ST. PHILIP'S DAY** takes place every weekday evening beginning with Rosary at 7.45 & continuing with meditation, prayers and Benediction at 8 p.m.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** in the Cloister Chapel will take place on Wednesday beginning with Holy Mass (at 2.30 p.m.) and the afternoon will end with Benediction at c. 4.30 p.m.

**Prayer for Atonement and Reparation** as requested by the Bishops' Conference will take place in the Cathedral on Fridays 21st and 28th May after 12.15 pm Mass until 2 pm. There will a period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to begin with, followed by a short service.

**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 Roman Christian History. (Many of you will remember his wonderful talks last year on the Catacombs.) Fliers are available in Church with details.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP** at St Francis', Handsworth from Monday 17th to Wednesday 26th May. Please see poster.

**ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS** next Saturday outing is on May 29th to the Rosary Rally at the Dominican Convent at Stone, Staffs. Please 'phone Richard Winstanley for details: 07905 601 721.

**THE BEATIFICATION OF CARDINAL NEWMAN** will be on Saturday 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 to the Oratory at times to be announced. Forms are to be found at the back of church and completed forms should be returned to the Oratory in an envelope marked "Beatification".

**ANNUAL APF MASS**, to which all APF members, families and friends are invited, will take place on Saturday 12th June at St Anthony of Padua, Oxford. A coach will leave St Michael's, Moor St, at 10 a.m. Cost approx £10. Refreshments will be provided after Mass. *If you wish to attend, please contact Monica Hynes 427 2039, no later than next Sunday, 23rd.*

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO EVESHAM** with blessing of the sick, takes place on Saturday 12th June. Please see the poster for details.

**LOUGH DERG PILGRIMAGE:** 'St Patrick's Purgatory' organised by Msgr Fallon, takes place from Thursday 17th—Sunday 20th June. Fare £180. Application forms from St Francis' Church, 101 Hunter's Road, Handsworth B19 1EB. Please book as soon as possible.

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*

