

# THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE

Registered as a Charity

## Parish Weekly Newsletter

Telephone: 0121 454 0496

Fac simile: 0121 455 8160

E-mail: parish@theoratory.org.uk

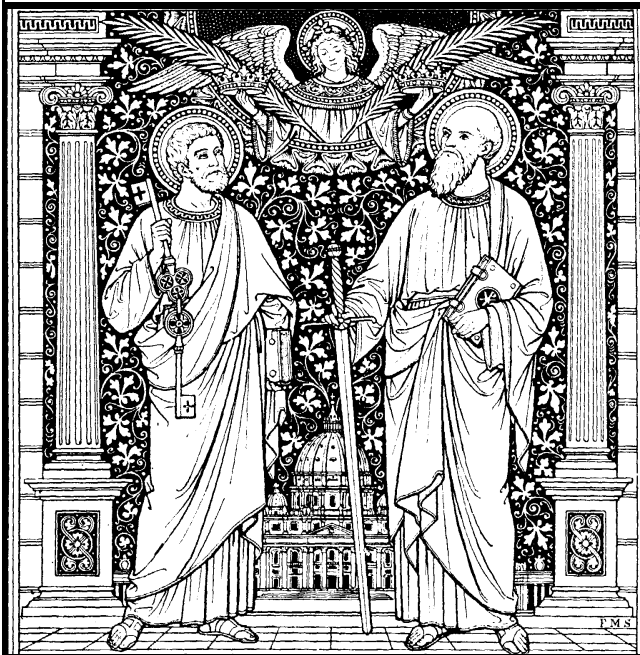
Web-site: www.theoratory.org.uk

Oratory Primary School: web.oratory.bham.sch.uk



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

## June 29th 2008: THE SOLEMNITY OF STS PETER & PAUL



### THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

Today we are beginning a special year in the life of the Church: the "Year of St. Paul". The Pope has announced this initiative in order to help us all to get to know and better understand the teaching and character of this mighty figure of the Apostolic era who is rather less well-known than the "Prince of the Apostles", St. Peter, together with whom he is commemorated on this feast day. In the first place, the reason for celebrating these two saints together on the same day is based upon the historical tradition of their martyrdom in the same persecution of the Church by the Emperor Nero in the City of Rome in 64 A.D. To this day both Saints lie buried at the hearts of the two great churches in Rome dedicated to each of them. Recent archaeological research has revealed their relics, long-hidden away to protect them during times of trouble in Rome. St. Peter's relics were rediscovered a few years ago after painstaking research and can even now be visited and venerated far down beneath the mighty dome of St. Peter's Basilica. Yet more recently, and in time for this special year, archaeologists have uncovered the remains of St. Paul under the ancient high altar of St. Paul's Basilica built over them by the Emperor Constantine in the early 4th century.

Yet why should this year be dedicated especially to St. Paul? This is the Pope's decision based on the likelihood that this year is more or less the two-thousandth anniversary of St. Paul's birth in Tarsus, in modern-day Eastern Turkey. Paul, originally called Saul, was a Jew by race, yet also a Roman citizen (a comparatively rare privilege especially among the Jews). It was this dignity which eventually led to his being beheaded rather than crucified like Our Lord or St. Peter. His persecution of the early Church, including the stoning of St. Stephen, and his dramatic conversion at the gates of Damascus, are well known, and we will reflect on them in many ways during the year ahead. We will also study his wonderful Epistles, or letters to the Christian congregations (or in Paul's terminology, "Churches") which he had founded or visited, — or to young protégés like Timothy and Titus, whom he had trained up as successors in administering the sacraments, and in teaching and governing the infant Church. These letters altogether make up the largest single body of documents in the New Testament and, together with the teachings of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist, are the most profound reflections on the person and work of Christ and of Christ's relation to His Body on earth, the Catholic Church.

This 'Pauline Year' will take place, naturally, in a special way in Rome. The Pope explains that "in the papal basilica and Benedictine abbey attached to it, there will take place a series of liturgical, cultural and ecumenical events, as well as various pastoral and social initiatives, all of them inspired by Pauline spirituality. Special attention will also be given to pilgrims who from various places will want to go to the tomb of the Apostle in a penitential way in order to find spiritual benefits. Meetings for study will be promoted and there will be special publications on Pauline texts, to promote the immense richness of the teaching contained in them, true patrimony of humanity redeemed by Christ. Also, in every part of the world, similar initiatives will be organized in dioceses, sanctuaries and places of prayer by religious institutions, institutions of study and assistance, which carry the name of St. Paul or which have been inspired by him and his teaching." Benedict XVI wishes this year to have an important "ecumenical dimension". "The Apostle of the Gentiles, who dedicated himself to the spreading of the good news to all peoples, spent himself for the unity and harmony of all Christians. May he guide us and protect us in this bimillenary celebration, helping us to advance in the humble and sincere search for the full unity of all the members of the mystical body of Christ." To mark this special occasion the Pope has granted the entire Church a Plenary Indulgence, applicable to the living or the dead, which may be gained on this feast under the usual conditions, including sacramental confession. See the Notice on the other page and at the Church Doors, and listen to the announcements during Mass for details.

### Sunday June 29th: Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul (Red)

*Year I or A of the Lectionary at Mass*

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| • 8.30 a.m. Low Mass                       | • 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children) |
| • 9.30 a.m. 1962 rite Mass (in the church) | • 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass        |
| • 10.30 a.m. High Mass                     | • 7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction  |

### THIRTEENTH 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 June 30th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of the First Martyrs of Rome. (Red)**

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

**The First Martyrs of Rome:** We commemorate the holy men and women who were the protomartyrs of Rome. They died before Sts. Peter and Paul, and are called "disciples of the Apostles. . . whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the Apostles' death." These men and women were accused by Emperor Nero of burning Rome, to divert suspicion from himself and his own crimes. Some martyrs were burned as living torches at evening banquets, some crucified, others were fed to wild animals.

**Tuesday July 1st: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Oliver Plunket, Bishop & Martyr. (Red)**

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction

**St Oliver Plunket** (1625-81) Born in County Meath. He studied for the priesthood in Rome and taught there until his appointment as Bishop of Armagh in 1670. He set about his new appointment with fervour, but his censure of those priests and religious living scandalous lives led to some taking advantage of the Titus Oates plot to incriminate him, making false accusations to the secular authorities. Arrested and taken to London, he was refused time to get witnesses to attest to his innocence. He was the last Catholic to die for his faith at Tyburn

**Wednesday July 2nd: Feria. (Green)**

**Thursday July 3rd: St Thomas, Apostle. Feast. (Red)**

**St Thomas** A Jew and one of the twelve apostles, his scepticism vanished at the sight of Our Lord's wounds. After Pentecost, he travelled to Asia Minor. As with all the Apostles, apart from St John, he was martyred for the Faith. He is the Patron of India and Pakistan.

**Friday July 4th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Elizabeth of Portugal. (White).**

**St Elizabeth of Portugal** (1271-1336) She used her position as Queen of Portugal to broker peace between nations. Despite a troublesome marriage, she lived a life of prayer and cared for the needy, founding hospitals, orphanages and a women's refuge. Following her husband's death, she moved to assist at a Poor Clares convent she had established.

**Saturday July 5th: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or Feria. (Green); or optional memorias of St Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest. (White); or of St Modwen, Virgin. (White); or of Bl. George Nichols & Comps, English Martyrs. (Red)**

- **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: Fourteenth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

**St Anthony Mary Zaccaria:** Born in 1502 in Cremona, he became a medical doctor. He was ordained a priest in 1528 and moved to the church of St Barnabas in Milan, where he co-founded the *Barnabites*, a congregation of priests dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament and he popularised the Forty Hours Devotion. He died in 1539.

**St Modwen** (7th c) Very little is known of her other than she was an Irish nun who came to convert Anglo-Saxons. She is particularly associated with Burton on Trent..

**Bl George Nichols and Companions** (d.1589) A priest in Oxford, he worked with great success until his capture with Fr Richard Yaxley, Thomas Belson and Henry Pritchard (laymen who assisted priests). They were tortured before their executions at Oxford.

**Sunday July 6th: The Fourteenth 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:** Marie-Therese Jones, Mary Houston, Evelyn Arrigho, Frank McGuinness, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey and Lorna O'Shea.

**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:** Fr Thomas Pope of this Oratory, Molly Dawson, Sydney Mee, Norah Reidy, Michael Young, James McMillan, Martin Gallagher and Mary McCann.

**The following are requested to read next weekend, July 5th/6th: Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul:**

**Saturday 5.45 p.m.:** Brigid Hogan  
**Sunday 8.30 a.m.:** Murray Wilson-Browne  
**12.00 p.m.** Eamon Grant  
**5.30 p.m.:** Simon Stacey

#### **Collections**

**The Twelfth Sunday of the Year, 22nd June:**  
**Offertory:** £1,306  
**Second: Organ maintenance:** £466  
**Thank you**

**Second Collection today:**  
**Peter's Pence**

#### **TODAY**

**PLENARY INDULGENCE** Today sees the opening of the Year of St. Paul. The Holy Father has granted a **Plenary Indulgence on this day** to mark this occasion. In order to obtain this indulgence it is necessary only to take a devout part in prayers in honour of St. Paul during Mass or Devotions today. Of course, in order to obtain an Indulgence one must always have the right preparation and disposition—sacramental confession with true repentance for sin and detachment from love of sin; Holy Communion; and prayers for the Holy Father's intentions in addition to the prayers for the Feast of St. Paul. **See the posters on the Notice Boards with full details of how to obtain this Indulgence today and at other times during the course of this Year of St. Paul.**

**The PIETY STALL** is open in the Lower Cloister Hall.

**The CATENIAN ASSOCIATION** Today is the Patronal Feast of the Association which also celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. In celebration, 1500 Masses worldwide will be said for Vocations. Please join in this initiative by praying for the Church's desperate need for religious Vocations.

#### **THIS WEEK**

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will take place this week on **Wednesday afternoon** commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. We thank you for your prayers of support in the Appeal for Planning Permission to be granted to allow us to keep our fence. You may be interested to know that the hearing which

began last Tuesday morning has been adjourned until October 8th, which will be during the annual Festival of the 40 Hours; a wonderful opportunity for us all to pray for this intention with greater fervour and intensity than ever! **Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will eventually be granted.**

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

**REDNAL GROUNDS DAY (Saturday).** Many thanks to those who have signed up to help. Please make your own transport arrangements. We begin with Mass is at 10 a.m. in the Chapel. Food and drink will be provided during the course of the day, including a barbeque to celebrate at the end. Please pray for good weather!

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES, HEDNESFORD** takes place on Sunday 6th July: Rosary at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m. followed by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and Blessing of the sick. For full details see the poster in the cloisters.

**THE LATIN MASS SOCIETY** is celebrating its annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Winefride at Holywell, North Wales, on Sunday, July 6th with a Solemn High Mass at 2.30 p.m. See the poster for details.

**ECUMENICAL SONGS OF PRAISE** takes place on Sunday July 6th at St. George's Anglican Church, Edgbaston, at 6.30 p.m.