

# 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.*

### May 25th 2008: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



#### CORPUS CHRISTI continued

Today is *Corpus Christi Sunday*. We began our celebrations of Corpus Christi-tide on Thursday last with two wonderful Masses: the first in the morning was celebrated with the schoolchildren from our Primary School; the other a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form (*alias* "Tridentine") with an indoor procession of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Solemn Benediction.

You may wonder why Corpus Christi begins with *Thursday* in the first place. It is on account of the fact that it was on a Thursday that the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist, the Sacrificial Rite of the Mass and the Sacred Priesthood were all instituted at the Last Supper. In memory of that first Maundy Thursday we now celebrate all these wonderful things. Since Maundy Thursday was too close to the sufferings of Our Lord to offer any but the briefest celebration of such a momentous gift as the Eucharist, the Church took the first suitable opportunity after Holy Week and Eastertide were over, to return at greater leisure to celebrate this gift. So it came about that on the same weekday, namely the Thursday following Trinity Sunday, af-

ter the white days of Paschal- or Eastertide are over and we have returned to "Ordinary Time" with its green vestments, the Church established the tradition of this joyful celebration of our Lord's Body and Blood in the Blessed Sacrament. But the celebrations are not over yet! Because we have had to wait so long to reflect and rejoice at Our Lord's wonderful gift of His own Body and Blood, the Church wants us to prolong the celebration over several days. So today we continue this sequence of special days with the Solemnity of *Corpus Christi Sunday*, during which we will of course celebrate our usual variety of Sunday Masses. Yet, to add to the splendour of this holy day, some twenty of our Parish schoolchildren will receive holy Communion for the first time to at the 12 o'clock Mass, the most fitting day for them to do so. Then we will extend the celebrations with our annual outdoor procession of the Blessed Sacrament, accompanying our Lord's Sacramental Body with hymns and prayers around the grounds of the Oratory and the Plough and Harrow and Hagley Roads, to give witness to our faith and our reverent joy to our passing fellow citizens. Do please come along and join in! The more that come, the greater the impression and the more joyful the throng! The procession pauses several times briefly for a scripture reading and prayer to allow us to reflect on the mystery of Holy Communion. (And please pray for good weather!) Finally in the evening we will celebrate Vespers with all the grandeur that the Church's liturgy offers us.

#### THE FEAST OF OUR HOLY FATHER, ST. PHILIP NERI

It is a happy coincidence that the Feast of our Holy Father St. Philip falls this year on the day following Corpus Christi, for this was exactly the case in the year 1595 when St. Philip died in the early hours of the morning after celebrating the Mass of the feast the morning before with more than usual joy, (joy being especially characteristic of St. Philip throughout his life.) Tomorrow, Monday, we will celebrate our customary Solemn High Mass at 11 a.m., at which a good friend of our community will be celebrant and preacher, namely Abbot Cuthbert Johnson, former Abbot of Quarr in the Isle of Wight. We hope that many of you will come to share our joy on this special feast, particularly as it most fittingly happens to be a public holiday as well. Whether the weather is good or bad, you will find no better or more joyous way of spending a holiday than by making it a holy day! Holy Days should be just that: "holidays" in their original sense. Our Lord and Mother Church intend us to find joy in the expression of our faith. So do come to the Corpus Christi procession this afternoon and the High Mass tomorrow morning, and prolong the celebrations in whatever fitting way you can in between and afterwards!

This week we also celebrate: the **Dedication of the Church** on Thursday, the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** on Friday, and the **Visitation of our Lady** on Saturday. Please also note the night vigil on Friday to join together the feasts of Our Lord's and His Mother's Hearts.



#### Sunday May 25th: Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*) (*White*)

*Year 1 or A of the Lectionary at Mass*

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *1962 rite Mass (in the church)*
- 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. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

#### EIGHTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

*Tuesday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., ,  
12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.*

*May Devotions (Tuesday to Thursday) at 7.45 p.m. Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass.*

<p><b>Monday May 26th: SOLEMNITY OF OUR HOLY FATHER, ST PHILIP NERI (White) Bank Holiday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass at 8 a.m.</li> <li>• Solemn High Mass at 11 a.m. (Preacher: Abbot Cuthbert Johnson OSB.)</li> <li>• No evening Devotions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tuesday May 27th: St Augustine of Canterbury, Apostle of England. (White)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May Devotions at 7.45 p.m.</li> </ul> <p>Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction</p> <p><b>St Augustine of Canterbury:</b> In 597, Pope Gregory I ("the Great") sent Augustine and forty monks to England. Although there had been some earlier converts to Christianity, subsequent wars had diminished them and forced the remainder into hiding. Augustine set his see at Canterbury, then the capital city of the Kingdom of Kent, where he converted the king, Ethelbert. Many converts followed and the Pope sent more missionaries to help with the task. Shortly before his death in 601, he founded episcopal sees at London and Rochester.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday May 28th: FERIA. (Green)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May Devotions at 7.45 p.m.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thursday May 29th: Solemnity of the Dedication of This Church. (White).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sung Mass at 5.45 p.m.</li> <li>• May Devotions at 7.45 p.m.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Friday May 30th: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS. (White)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High MASS AT 8 P.M.</li> <li>• Vigil in Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus &amp; the Immaculate Heart of Mary (till 3.15 a.m.) in the Cloister Chapel (see below)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Saturday May 31st: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Memoria. (White)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.</li> <li>• Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m.</li> <li>• Benediction and Novena before St Philip's Day at 10.45 a.m.</li> <li>• Confessions from 10.55 a.m. to 12 noon and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass</li> <li>• First Mass of Sunday: Ninth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Sunday June 1st: The Ninth Sunday of the Year (Green)</b></p> <p><b>Mass &amp; Service Times:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.30 a.m. Low Mass</li> <li>• 9.30 a.m. Latin Low Mass (1962 Missal)</li> <li>• 10.30 a.m. High Mass</li> <li>• 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)</li> <li>• 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass in English</li> <li>• 7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction</li> </ul>
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**Please pray for the sick** Peter Young, Stephen Realf, Antonietta Boffa, Maria Papa, Desmond Williams, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea, Vivian Beesley, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Cathal McGrory, Veronica Smith, Ellen Westwood and Frank McGuinness. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Susan Montgomery; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Stephen Dessain of this Oratory, Fr Anthony Maxwell-Ward, Maureen Stanley, Arthur Hawkins, Ada Broomhead, Annie Kelly, Freda Stokes, Christine & Joseph Fox and Mary McCarty

**The following are requested to read next weekend, May 31st/June 1st: Ninth Sunday of the Year**  
 Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan  
 Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins  
 12.00 p.m. Eamon Grant  
 5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

**Collections**  
 Trinity Sunday, 18th May:  
 Offertory: £1,514  
 Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £412  
 Corpus Christi, 22nd May: Offertory: £243  
 Thank you  
**Second Collection today: Diocesan Development Fund**

**TODAY**  
 Children of the Oratory Primary School will make their First Holy Communion at 12 noon Mass.  
**CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION:** there will be an **Outdoor Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 4 p.m.** Parents and grandparents! Please bring children to honour Our Lord on this special occasion. They may wear white. (We would especially like to see those children who will have made their First Communion earlier in the day!)

**THIS WEEK**  
**ST. PHILIP'S DAY** is on Monday, 26th May. Vespers the previous Sunday evening (tonight) will be those of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, followed by veneration of the Relic of St. Philip. Since St. Philip's Day is a Bank Holiday, the Solemn Mass will be at 11 a.m. The Celebrant and Preacher will be Abbot Cuthbert Johnson OSB.  
**MAY DEVOTIONS** to Our Lady, continue from Tuesday to Thursday beginning with Rosary at 7.45 p.m. followed by a short reading about Our Lady, and ending with Benediction.  
**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession around the grounds. *Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will be granted.*  
**VIGIL IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS & THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY** will be held here on the night of Friday/Saturday, 30th/31st May. High Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart will be at 8 p.m. The Vigil will commence immediately following (in the Cloister Chapel). There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary & special prayers of reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mass of

the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady at 2.30 a.m. We end with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 a.m.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**  
**The APF ANNUAL MASS** for all collectors, box holders and friends of the Missions takes place on Saturday 7th June at Our Lady of the Assumption in Coventry. Mass is at 3 p.m. Some refreshments will be provided. Transport can be arranged. *Please contact Monica Hynes on 427 2039, by next weekend, if you are intending to go to the event.*  
**"THE SIEGE OF JERICHO"** This year will take place from Monday 9th June to Sunday 15th June. from Monday to Saturday, there will be Mass here at 3 p.m. which will be followed by a procession, led by a priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament on his person, to the Calthorpe (abortion) Clinic in Arthur Road. The Rosary will be said along the way. On Sunday 15th June, there will not be an extra Mass, but a Solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament (exposed) will take place around the clinic, commencing at 2 p.m. in Arthur Road. We hope you will make your best effort to be there. For those who cannot take part, please support us with your prayers  
**SOCIETY OF ST HUGH of LINCOLN** meets on Saturday, 8th June at 10 a.m. in the Oratory House. New members are most welcome.  
**ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL** Fundraising Dance and Social on Friday 6th June at Grimshaw Room, Shadwell St., (St Chad's). Music by Little Jimmy and Friends; Tickets £5 Doors open at 8pm. Contact 01212306201 for tickets.  
**FRIENDS OF THE POOR CLARES** will be selling raffle tickets here next weekend, and will also be looking to recruit new members.

**NOTICES**  
**The FRIENDS OF CARDINAL NEWMAN** are missing a back number of their *Newsletter of Christmas 1990*. If any one has a copy, please would they lend it to Fr Gregory.