

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 28th 2010: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

DEATH AND GLORY

St. Luke today tells us in the Gospel about the "Transfiguration" witnessed by Peter, James and John—the three Apostles whom our Lord especially chose from among the twelve to be present at this wonderful, yet strange, event.

This took place shortly after Our Lord had just foretold His forthcoming Passion and Death to the Apostles for the first time. They were already travelling up to Jerusalem where Jesus would be arrested and put to death. Then, suddenly and unexpectedly as He had just taken them with Him to this remote hilltop, He was totally transformed by a light the like of which they had never seen before, nor would they ever see again in this life.

Moreover, they saw that He was not alone; just as suddenly as they saw Him changed, so suddenly there were two men with Him, whom they were able to recognise as two of the greatest leaders of God's people in Old Testament times:

Moses and Elijah.

Moses was the first lawgiver, who brought to the Hebrews the Ten Commandments from the top of Mount Sinai. He is recognised as the one holding the tablets of stone with the Commandments engraved upon them. Yet he is also recognised by the "horns" of light issuing from his forehead. Scripture tells us that these mysterious "horns" came about as a direct result of Moses's having seen God face to face when conversing with Him on the Mountain top, a most unusual privilege. Now, it is clear, Moses is here on another mountain top, seeing God face to face this, time in the person of Jesus, and conversing with Him.

Then there is Elijah, the greatest of the prophets. He is recognisable here from the scroll which he holds, representing his prophecies concerning the Messiah. Elijah's presence here reminds us that, at the end of his earthly life, he had been taken from this earth into heaven in a singular way. He also, therefore, beholds God face to face in heaven and now, too, sees Him here on the mountain.

Yet what is most significant about the presence of these two patriarchs of the Jewish religion is their conversation. St. Luke specifically tells us that, right there in that dazzling heavenly light, Moses and Elijah were talking with Our Lord about "His passing which He was to accomplish in Jerusalem." In other words, there in the midst of His glory, they were speaking of His death. That might seem contradictory to us. It certainly did seem so to all the Apostles. Yet this was the way in which Our Lord wished to prepare these three in particular for the terrible experience they would soon have to undergo of seeing Him in agony in Gethsemane.

Truly, as Our Lord makes clear, there can be no glory without suffering, no resurrection without death. After His resurrection, on that very first Easter Day, He will meet up with two more of His disciples on the road, this time unrecognised by them. He will say to them, "Was it not ordained that the Christ should first suffer and so enter into His glory?" And, St. Luke tells us, "then starting from Moses and going through all the prophets, He explained to them the passages throughout the Scriptures that were about Himself." The Transfiguration and the teaching on the way to Emmaus help us to understand what our Lenten penance is all about. Like Our Lord and the Apostles, we are on a journey that leads us to Jerusalem, that is, Holy Week. We are still five weeks away from Easter. We will have to undergo a great deal, including death to our selfish ways, before we reach the glory of the resurrection. But remember, even though death is certainly ours, for by our sins we have deserved it, the resurrection is a pure gift from God. We can never deserve that wonderful gift of glory. What we can do is show our thankfulness by doing all we can in Lent to prepare ourselves to receive it. May God grant us a good and holy Lent!



Sunday February 28th: The Second Sunday of Lent (Purple)

- 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 2 in the Divine Office

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

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Monday and Tuesday. Exposition on Saturday : 8.30—10.45 a.m.

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

Stations of the Cross on Friday at 1.10 p.m. and 8 p.m.

<p>Monday 1st March: St David, Bishop & Patron of Wales. Feast. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing with St Philip's relic at 8 p.m. <p>St David: (d. c. 589) By tradition he was the son of King Sant of South Wales and St Non. He was ordained a priest and later studied under St Paulinus. He turned to missionary work and founded a number of monasteries, including the one at Menevia which was renowned for its asceticism. Following his influence at the Synod of Brevi in 550, he was appointed Bishop, and was reportedly ordained archbishop by the Patriarch of Jerusalem while on a visit to the Holy Land. He also invoked a council that ended the last vestiges of Pelagianism. Renowned for his extraordinary spiritual leadership, under which many monasteries flourished, he was said to have performed miracles in his lifetime. He died in the monastery at Menevia.</p>	<p>March 7th: The Third Sunday of Lent (Purple)</p> <p>Mass & Service Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Please pray for the sick: Geoff Jones, Kevan Bleach, Sarah Wallin, Lizi & Michael Fox, Tony Colqhoun, Pat Cartwright, Carolyn Knight, David Pritchard, Elizabeth Caswell, James Foynes, Michael McCann, Philip McCann and Tony Farmer. Of your charity please pray for those who have died recently: Tom Devaney and Barbara Cameron Johnson; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Elena Cozzi, Josephine Hawkins, Marie-Louise Jones, Maura Kelly, Denis Minihane, Mary McNamara and William Jones.</p> <p>Barbara Johnson's funeral is on Thursday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: Wednesday at 4.30 p.m.</p>
<p>Tuesday 2nd March: St Chad, Bishop & Patron of our Diocese. Feast. (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benediction at 8 p.m. <p>St Chad (d. 672) A former pupil of St Aidan's at Lindisfarne, he succeeded his brother Cedd as Abbot of Lastingham in Yorkshire. Chosen as Bishop of York, he stepped down in favour of St Wilfrid who had been appointed by the Pope, and retired humbly to his monastery. He was appointed Bishop of Mercia and set his see at Lichfield, working tirelessly and visiting his Diocese on foot "in the manner of the Apostles". His tomb at Lichfield quickly became a place of pilgrimage and during the destruction of the monasteries by Henry VIII, his remains were rescued and hidden. They are now enshrined in our Cathedral here.</p> <p>Wednesday 3rd March: Wednesday of Lent (Purple)</p> <p>Thursday 4th March: Thursday of Lent. (Purple). Optional commemoration of St Casimir, Patron of Poland & Lithuania.</p> <p>St Casimir (1460-83) He was a Prince of Poland and shunned his wealth and luxuries. He was also a man of peace and was imprisoned by his father for three months for refusing to invade Hungary. He spent the remainder of his short life in prayer and penance and was a great friend to the poor.</p> <p>Friday 5th March: Friday of Lent. (Purple)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stations of the Cross at 1.10 p.m. and 8 p.m. <p>Saturday 6th March: Saturday of Lent. (Purple)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 & from 5.30 p.m. First Mass of Sunday (The Third Sunday of Lent) at 5.45 p.m. 	<p>The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, March 6th/7th, The Third Sunday of Lent:</p> <p>Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins 12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood 5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins</p> <p>Collections:</p> <p>The First Sunday of Lent : 21st February, 2010 Offertory: £1,348 Second: Church heating costs: £676 Musical Oratory: Costs of Beatification: £202 Thank you</p>

<p>TODAY</p> <p>THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND will be for Lent Fast Day which was on Friday. The proceeds will be sent to Aid to the Church in Need.</p> <p>THE PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses (including after the Saturday 5.45 p.m. Mass). <i>There is a good selection of books for Lenten reading and meditation, and also a new CD of Cardinal Newman's Stations of the Cross read by Fr Guy with our own Oratory Choir singing Bach Chorales. Price £11.50.</i></p> <p>THIS WEEK</p> <p>ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week. <i>However, instead, there will be Adoration on Monday in the Cloister Chapel, commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. followed by Exposition and ending with Benediction at c.4.45 p.m.</i></p> <p>STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Please note there are two opportunities on Fridays in Lent to take part in this devotional exercise: after the Lunch time Mass, approximately 1.10 p.m. , and after the Rosary at 8 p.m.</p> <p>OUR LENTEN TALKS are on the Priesthood in the lives of the Oratorian Saints and <i>Beati</i> and continue on Saturday with a talk given by Fr Dermot on Cardinal Newman.</p> <p>ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (for those aged 20-35) next meet on Thursday 4th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. A talk will be given on "Experiences of missionarywork in the Philippines".</p>	<p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH will meet on Saturday, 13th March at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House. <i>All are welcome.</i></p> <p>NOTICES</p> <p>ANNIE BRIGHT WESTON HOUSE RESIDENTIAL HOME (Sisters of Charity of St Paul the Apostle) in Norfolk Road, have a vacancy of a single bedroom for a lady over 65 years of age in their residential home for the elderly. (Please note: it 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.</p> <p>AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN) write to ask us to pass on to all of you their most sincere thanks for the recent contribution we made to their Haiti Fund.</p> <p>THE APOSTLESHIP TO THE SEA have also written to us to thank us for our contribution to their funds on Sea Sunday last year.</p> <p>SERVERS: volunteers are wanted for all Sunday (and weekday) Masses. Training will be given. Please see one of the Fathers.</p> <p>READERS are also required. Please give your name, telephone number and email address in writing to one of the Fathers.</p> <p>BROTHERS OF THE LITTLE ORATORY meet on Tuesdays after Benediction in St Philip's Chapel. All men are welcome.</p> <p>UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS also meets on Tuesday evenings after Benediction, in the Lower Cloister Hall. (It is not necessary to be a mother to be a member.)</p>
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<p>YEAR FOR PRIESTS—a reflection by Pope Benedict XVI</p> <p>St John Vianney would explain: "My secret is simple: give everything away; hold nothing back". When he lacked money, he would say amiably to the poor who knocked at his door: "Today I'm poor just like you, I'm one of you". At the end of his life, he could say with absolute tranquillity: "I no longer have anything. The good Lord can call me whenever he wants!". His chastity, too, was that demanded of a priest for his ministry. It could be said that it was a chastity suited to one who must daily touch the Eucharist, who contemplates it blissfully and with that same bliss offers it to his flock. It was said of him that "he radiated chastity"; the faithful would see this when he turned and gazed at the tabernacle with loving eyes".</p>
