

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.

June 22nd 2008: THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



CHRIST IS THE NEW ADAM

St. Paul in today's 2nd reading from the Epistle to the Romans contrasts Our Lord with Adam, the first man. Strictly speaking, Paul does more than contrast them; he explains that Christ *is the New Adam*. To understand what he means we have first to recollect what Adam is. Adam is the originator of the entire human race. We talk about the human race and mankind as a single entity. But we can only do this truly if we are all, ultimately, descended from one man and one woman. This is what the Church believes and teaches. There is no sense in speaking about the unity of the human race unless all human beings are actually of one and the same physical stock.

Because of Adam, we are all "men" by race. Because of the same Adam, we are all born alienated from our Creator by Adam's sin, also known as "original sin". "*Sin entered into the world through one man*", says St. Paul. Sin began as the rebellion of certain angels against God, Satan and his cohort of wicked spirits. Their hatred of God extends to all of God's creation and *most of all* to mankind, because, as we know, it has been revealed to us by God that we are "*made in God's image and likeness*". This image and likeness in us Satan has sought from the beginning to destroy. Hence his subtle temptation of our first parents. Since they were so close to God before the Fall, Adam and Eve could not easily be made to sin against God. But once they had been brought to disobey God, all subsequent sin became ever easier. So it is that Adam, Eve and all their descendents since the fall will find until the end of the world that it is very difficult *not* to sin. Moreover, there is a further dreadful consequence of sin, which mars God's image in us all—that is death. St. Paul explains that "*Death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned*".

Into this state of alienation and death came our Lord. He is not only the greatest teacher the human race has known or can ever know—He is more: He is the originator of a new kind of humanity—*redeemed humanity*. As St. Paul says in the Letter to the Philippians, it was His "*obedience even to death*" that set us free from the vicious spiral of sin and death which ruled over us like a tyrant from the time of Adam onwards. The sin of Adam was disobedience which brought death. Only the obedience of the Son of Man, our Lord, to His Father's Will, could undo the hold of sin and death. Yet the fact that sin and death are still around is a sign to us how potent they are and how much we will always need our Saviour to break their hold over us! Again, St. Paul says in today's passage from the Letter to the Romans: "*Adam prefigured the One to come*", meaning that Adam himself was a remote preparation for the coming of Christ—because God has always had it in mind to send His Son to undo the harm of Adam's sin. Yet though sin and death are still so much in evidence in our world, nonetheless, St. Paul says that "*the gift considerably outweighed the fall*". In other words, Christ's death and resurrection did not simply reverse or undo the harm of Adam's sin, *but far surpassed it in merit and power*. St. Paul summarises this today when he says that "*If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift*". It is both the gratuity and the abundance of this gift that amazes St. Paul, and must amaze us too when we stop to reflect on it. God could have abandoned mankind as a failed experiment. Yet He chose not imply to rescue us, but to do so at the price of His own Son's suffering as the New Adam, and by that means to re-shape fallen man in His own Son's glorious image, making us fit by grace for the future glory of heaven.

Sunday June 22nd: Twelfth Sunday of the Year (Green)

Year I 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. *Vespers and Benediction*

TWELFTH 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. Benediction on Friday at 8 p.m. in Honour of the Sacred Heart
Confessions are heard from 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. until the end of Mass.*

Monday June 23rd: Feria. (Green). *Optional memoria of St Ethelreda, Abbess.* (White)
St Thomas Garnet, English Martyr.

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

St Ethelreda (also known as Audrey) (d. 679) An Anglo-Saxon princess, she was married and widowed. She had taken a vow of perpetual virginity, but was forced for reasons of state, into a second marriage. When her husband left her, she became a nun and founded a double monastery at Ely, where the Cathedral now stands. She lived an austere life and many miracles were attributed to her in her lifetime.

St Thomas Garnet (d. 1608) A secular priest, he was arrested and imprisoned for nine months before being exiled. He joined the Jesuits at Louvain, and returned to England in 1608. He was arrested almost immediately and charged with his priesthood. He refused to take the oath of allegiance and was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn.

Tuesday June 24th: Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist. (White)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** *Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction*
- The Birth of St John the Baptist:** We celebrate this occasion six months before the celebration of the birth of Our Lord and as the days begin to shorten. As St. John the Baptist said to his own followers: "He (Christ) must increase and I must decrease".

Wednesday June 25th: Feria. (Green)

Thursday June 26th: Feria. (Green)

Friday June 27th: Feria. (Green). *Optional memoria of St Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church.* (White)

- **Benediction in Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8 p.m.**

St Cyril of Alexandria: Patriarch of Alexandria in Egypt, he was appointed by the Pope to preside over the Council of Ephesus in 431. The Council declared Our Lady "Theotokos", that is "Mother of God". This condemned the popular heresy promulgated by Nestorius that Our Lady was the mother only of Christ the Man.

Saturday June 28th: St Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr. Memoria. (Red)
St John Southworth, English Martyr.

- **Mass at 8 a.m.** (n.b. *In the Cloister Chapel—see below*)
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (in the Cloister Chapel) from 8.30 to 10.45 a.m. followed by Benediction**
- **St Paul's Old Girls' Association Mass at 11 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: Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul, at 5.45 p.m.**

St Irenaeus (c 130-202) A pupil of St Polycarp, himself a pupil of St John, Irenaeus became Bishop of Lyons. He was the first great western Christian writer and his writings give clear testimony to the teachings of the early Church and of the Apostles themselves. His principal work was a treatise on Gnosticism, certain heresies which taught that it is knowledge, rather than grace, which saves us.

St John Southworth Born in Lancashire, he became a priest at Douay, returning to England in 1619 but was soon arrested. Queen Henrietta Maria secured his release and he was banished. He returned to England secretly and worked for some years, particularly with plague victims and the poor. However, under Cromwell's regime he was re-arrested and martyred for refusing to deny his priesthood. He was hanged drawn and quartered at Tyburn in 1654.

Sunday June 29th: The Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul (Red)

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. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Lucia Tombura, Marie-Therese Jones, Evelyn Arrigho, Frank McGuinness, Josie Coyle, 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:** Cathal McGrory and Edna Hall; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Joseph Bacchus of this Oratory, Cecilia Tallis, Fred Jarvis, Maurice O'Brien, Ellie O'Moore, John Sutton, William Grimes, Theresa Sutton and Margaret Ellen Bartley.

Edna Hall's funeral is on Wednesday at 12.45. Reception of remains: Tuesday at 4.30 p.m.

The following are requested to read next weekend, June 28th/29th: Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Morag Marinoni
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin
12.00 p.m. Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections

The Eleventh Sunday of the Year, 15th June:
Offertory: £1,359

Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £436
Thank you

**Second Collection today:
Organ maintenance and repairs**

TODAY

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will take place this week on **Monday afternoon** (note the change of day) commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. **Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will finally be granted.**

THIS WEEK the Appeal Hearing will be heard at the Midland Institute on Margaret Street in the City Centre (near the Central Library). It will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 24th June and continue over three days. Consequently the Rednal day of prayer next week will be on Monday afternoon beginning as usual with Mass at 2.30 p.m.

PARENTS' WORKSHOP: Following on from the successful series of talks on Sex Education & Moral Development, a workshop is taking place in the School Hall at the Oratory Primary School, this Monday at 2.15 p.m. to which all parents/carers are welcome to attend. The aim of the workshop, which will be run by Margaret Parsons a nurse/midwife who works for LIFE, is to offer practical help and advice.

BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART is on Friday at 8 p.m.

11 A.M. MASS on SATURDAY, 28th June: Please note: This is an Anniversary Mass for St Paul's Old Girls' Association, **This is not a public Mass** and well over 550 people are expected so there will be standing room only. We recommend,

therefore, that if you usually attend the 11 a.m. Mass, you come to the 8 a.m. Mass which will be in the Cloister Chapel, and will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as usual.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH meets on Saturday, 5th July at 10.15 a.m. in the Oratory House. All are welcome.

THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES, HEDNESFORD takes place on Sunday 6th July, commencing with Rosary at 3 p.m. Mass at 4 p.m. will be followed by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and blessing of the sick. For full details, including directions to get there, 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 organised by our local Council of Churches will take place on Sunday July 6th at St. George's Anglican Church, Edgbaston, at 6.30 p.m.

NOTICES

APF RED BOX HOLDERS: Please note that the quarter comes to an end this week and you are asked to have your boxes ready to exchange when your collector contacts you. It is hoped to have all monies in within the next fortnight. Many thanks for your co-operation.