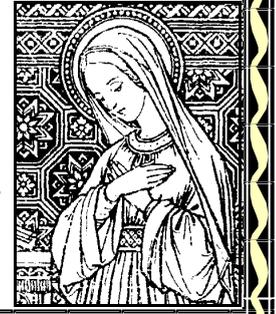


THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8UE
Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter



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

July 27th 2008: THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

The Provost writes:

It is sometimes a salutary exercise to sit down and think "If my house was on fire, what would I want to save first?" Would it be that particular book or picture, would it be a photograph of a loved one, or something valuable in more earthly terms? It is hard to say. But to think like that does help us to get a true perspective on life, on the things that really matter to us and the things that ultimately are peripheral

This situation can apply in other areas of life too. What selfish attitudes do I need to surrender in order to preserve my marriage or my religious vocation? When people look at me do they see someone pleasant to be with, more concerned for the needs of the other person, or do they see a monster of egotism, a bully and a selfish character? We all know that there are aspects of our lives and behaviour that are not yet under the gentle sway of Christ, and that they must be so brought if we are ever going to get anywhere.

If getting a proper perspective on what really matters is essential when it comes to our possessions or our desires and motivations, how much more so is it in the realm of faith. The greatest gift we have is surely that of our faith; there is nothing more important than that. It is the pearl of great price this weekend's Gospel tells us about. All else is worth sacrificing in order to preserve and foster that priceless gift. With the gift of faith all else is possible and we can laugh at adversity and smile at anxiety. Without it, how dreary our existence, how bleak our world, how empty our lives ultimately are. We might need to ask ourselves: "What must I do to increase my faith?" Perhaps we need to spend more time in prayer, or take up reading the Bible or regular spiritual reading, or doing some apostolic work in the parish. We might also have to ask: "What must I avoid in order to preserve my faith?" Some bad habit, bad friendship, some weakness that prevents me loving Christ as I should - we can each supply our own list, I am sure.

I hope some of you were able to follow the Pope's visit to Australia last week for World Youth Day. The addresses he gave to young Catholics about the gift of faith, the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the supreme joy of knowing and loving Christ were truly inspirational and repay prayerful study. The Pope reminded our youth that earthly success is not the thing that really matters, that we must do all we can to avoid getting sucked into the "spiritual desert" which has engulfed so much of modern society, and that a generous, loving response to Christ is the true way of finding that fulfillment for which the heart - and especially the young heart - yearns. Those Papal homilies and addresses were some of the most beautiful of this pontificate, and we should be truly grateful that God has given us such a marvelous guide in living out our faith as we find in Pope Benedict XVI. Here is one brief extract: "Dear friends, life is not governed by chance; it is not random. Your very existence has been willed by God, blessed and given a purpose. Life is not just a succession of events and experiences, helpful though many of them are. It is a search for the true, the good and the beautiful. It is to this end we make our choices; it is for this that we exercise our freedom; it is in this - in truth, in goodness and in beauty - that we find our happiness and our joy. Do not be fooled by those who see you as just another consumer in a market of undifferentiated possibilities, where choice itself becomes the good, novelty usurps beauty, and subjective experience displaces truth. Christ offers more! Indeed He offers everything! Only He who is the Truth can be the Way and hence also the Life."

THE FENCE AT REDNAL

The Fathers of the Oratory are pleased to announce that they have reached amicable agreement with Birmingham City Council concerning the fence at Rednal. They thank most sincerely all those who have offered prayers for this intention

Sunday July 27th: The Seventeenth Sunday of the Year (Green)

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*

SEVENTEENTH 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 July 28th: Feria. (Green).

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

Tuesday July 29th: St Martha. Memoria. (White)

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.**

St Martha: The sister of Lazarus and Mary of Bethany. We hear in the Gospels that Our Lord was a frequent guest in their home. His gentle instruction to Martha that her sister had taken the better part in listening to Him rather than to help her, is a reminder to us all about being worried and distracted by the world and of our failure or forgetfulness in not spending time with Him. Perhaps you might be able to give Our Lord a little more of your time. Why not consider, for example, coming to Exposition on Saturday morning?

Wednesday July 30th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (White)

St Peter Chrysologus (400-50) His eloquent and profound preaching earned him the name *Chrysologus* (meaning "of the golden word"). He was appointed Bishop of Ravenna, Italy, and he did much to convert pagans, and to stamp out abuses that had developed. He defended the true faith in the person of Christ as true God and true Man.

Thursday July 31st: St Ignatius Loyola, Priest. (White).

St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556). A Basque nobleman and professional soldier, a period of convalescence after being wounded led to a spiritual conversion. He studied for the priesthood in Paris and, with friends he made there, founded the Society of Jesus (*Jesuits*), taking a special vow of obedience to the Pope. His "Spiritual Exercises", an account of his experiences at the time of his conversion, has helped many in their own search for God's Will

Friday August 1st: St Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. Memoria. (White)

St Alphonsus (1696-1787) As a young man he was a Brother of the Little Oratory in Naples. Highly intelligent, he became a barrister, but realised his true vocation, and was ordained in 1726. A renowned preacher and moral theologian, he founded the *Redemptorists*. He was also a noted confessor and encouraged the practice of confession saying that priests "should be a lion in the pulpit and a lamb in the confessional". He was a popular and prolific author. He became a bishop, but was forced to resign due to ill-health and in his last years, he suffered intensely, but still continued with voluntary mortifications.

Saturday August 2nd: Our Lady on Saturday. (White); or Feria. (Green); or optional memoria of St Peter Julian Eymard, Priest. (White)

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

St Peter Julian Eymard (1811-68) A French Marist priest, he had great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and founded the Congregation of Priests of the Blessed Sacrament, and an order of nuns, the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Portiuncula Indulgence On this day, 2nd Aug, a Plenary Indulgence, formerly called the 'Portiuncula' can be obtained under the following conditions: A devout visit to church, where an Our Father and Creed must be recited. In addition, one must go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, and prayers must be said for the intentions of the Pope. (The visit may be made from midday on Friday to midnight tonight).

Sunday August 3rd : The Eighteenth 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: Marion Arnott-Job, Patricia Ogbaji, Marie-Therese Jones, Sheila Lord, 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: Fr Kevin Fitzpatrick and Peg Chubb; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Anthony Harper, Ivy Gilbert, Philip Beesley, Joseph Glynn, Kitty Toole, Giuseppe Gaita, Kathleen Jenkins and Sarah Mannion.

The following are requested to read next weekend, August 2nd/3rd: Eighteenth Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m. Sr Hilary
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections

16th Sunday of the Year, 20th July:
Offertory: £1,232
Second: Little Sisters of the Poor: £1,025
Thank you

Second Collection today is for the Apostleship of the Sea

TODAY

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Apostleship of the Sea.

A CLOISTER SALE is being held to support children going on the GOBS Pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of August.

The PIETY STALL is open in the Lower Cloister Hall.

ANTI-EUTHANASIA LIVING WILL forms are available at the Church Doors.

THIS WEEK

ADORATION AT REDNAL will not take place this week as Fr Guy is away.

LADYWOOD WARD COMMITTEE of the City Council is open to the public on Tuesday, 29th July at 7 p.m. in the new Deaf Cultural Centre on Ladywood Road. The agenda will include: The closure of the Huntley Road Post Office and plans for Cawdor Crescent. Further details on the Notice Board.

SOCIETY OF ST HUGH meets on Saturday, 2nd August at 10.15 a.m. in the Oratory House. All are welcome.

There will be a SUNG MASS AT REDNAL on Tuesday, August 5th, the feast of the Dedication of the Church of St. Mary Major in Rome, (also known as "Our Lady of the Snow") to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the reopening of

the restored Chapel.

ANNUAL MASS FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF CARDINAL NEWMAN, on August 11th, the 118th, anniversary of his death, will take place at 7.30 p.m. On Sunday August 10th, there will be prayers at his graveside at Rednal, at 3 p.m.. Please see the poster on the Notice Boards for more information.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY at Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire, takes place on Sunday 17th August, commencing with Mass at 3.00 p.m. Please see the poster on the Notice Board in the Cloisters, which gives full details.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: Meetings recommence on Friday, 19th September (12-2 p.m.) . (Please see posters for more details). We will be studying and discussing *Saint Gianna Molla, Wife Mother, Doctor*. The book is available on the Piety Stall, priced at £8.95, but a refund of approximately 12.5% will be given to those who attend the book club.

GOBS PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 22-30 AUGUST 2008: There are some spaces left on the coach. The total cost is £395 full board including day trips. Details are available at the church doors.