

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.

August 9th 2009: THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

THE BREAD THAT I SHALL GIVE IS MY FLESH

Our Lord's teaching in the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel, is, as we already know, addressed to those whom He has just fed miraculously. Yet, they are the very ones who begin to grumble against His teaching, saying, "How can He say 'I have come down from heaven', when we know His father and mother?" Despite having seen with their own eyes what He had done for them all with only five loaves and two fish, they *still* have no faith in Him.

Then Our Lord says something very important indeed: "No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me." In other words, faith is not simply a matter of human choice, even though it is an act of our own will. We can only have faith in our Lord and in His presence among us as the "living Bread from Heaven" if we ourselves consent to that truth, but the power to give our consent is in its very origin a gift from God.

This also brings us to another point. Just as faith itself is a gift from God—a gift which we have the power to accept or reject, as did the crowds whom Jesus fed—so too the Blessed Sacrament is equally a gift from God; It is Jesus, the "Living Bread" Himself. We have no power of our own to bring this presence about. Recently a Catholic Journal published a letter purporting to be from a group of lay Catholics who claimed that, in



the absence of a priest one Sunday, they had decided to "concelebrate" a "Mass" themselves, saying the words of consecration over bread and wine just as a priest does. They suggested that this was just as effective as if they had had a priest there. It turned out that the letter was a hoax, intended to fool those who want to believe that it is possible for the Church to celebrate the sacraments without the priesthood.

Yet any Catholic knows the truth of the maxim "*Nemo dat quod non habet*" (no one can give what they do not themselves possess). Indeed, how could anyone think they had such power **without it being expressly given to them?** In the reformation era Protestants objected to the power of the priesthood and saw it as an obstacle between themselves and God, rather than the means of uniting us to God in the Sacraments. Some of them said of the priesthood: "how can a man give us Christ's flesh to eat?" Others claimed that because St. Peter says to us all that "*you are...a royal priesthood*" (1 Pet 2:9) and St. John says that Christ "*has made us...priests to his God and Father*", this means that *all* the baptised have the sacramental power of the priesthood simply by virtue of baptism. Yet the power to change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is not given to us in Baptism. The Letter to the Hebrews explains: "*For every High Priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God...And no one takes this honour on himself but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.*" (Heb 5:1,4) It is this "appointment to act on behalf of men in relation to God" that constitutes the sacramental power of the priesthood. It is expressed in the power given by our Lord to His apostles when He empowered them to forgive sins (cf. John 20:23) and to change bread and wine into His flesh and blood and offer them to His Father on our behalf (cf. Lk 22:20).

In this Year for Priests, we give thanks to our Lord that He does indeed "choose priests from among men to act on our behalf in relation to God". Of course, this priesthood does not *belong* to the priest. No priest can "take this honour on himself but is called to it by God" through ordination. When a bishop, a successor of the Apostles, lays hands upon a man and prays over him that this power be given to him on behalf of the Church, then he truly becomes united to the person of Christ in a wonderful way that brings Christ's presence sacramentally into the heart of the Church. This is a truly amazing responsibility and it is no wonder that priests are especially exposed to various attacks from the Evil One. This is why we must pray for priests to bear their high responsibility worthily. We must also pray for many more young men to hear and answer this call from God, so that sins may be forgiven and so that bread and wine may be changed into the flesh and blood of Christ, the Living Bread who has come down from heaven and still lives in our midst on our altars and in our tabernacles.

Sunday August 9th: Nineteenth Sunday (Green)

- 8.30 a.m. *Low Mass*
- 9.30 a.m. *Latin Low Mass—1962 Missal*
- 10.30 a.m. *Solemn High Mass*
- 12.00 p.m. *(Families with young children)*
- 5.30 p.m. *Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

NINETEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 3

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 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.

Monday 10th August: St Laurence, Deacon & Martyr. Feast. (Red)

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

St Laurence (d.258) Last week we had the account of Pope Sixtus II who was martyred with four of his deacons; Laurence was his Archdeacon and managed to hide the Church's material valuables before being caught. When ordered to hand over the Church's wealth, he gathered together the poor and sick and declared them as the "Church's treasure" He was martyred four days after Pope Sixtus and the others.

Tuesday 11th August: St Clare, Virgin. Memoria. (White)

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

St Clare (1194-1253) A noble woman of Assisi, she became a follower of St Francis and dedicated her life to Our Lord. With St Francis, she founded the first female Franciscan Order, the *Poor Clares*.

Wednesday 12th August: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Jane Frances de Chantal. Religious. (White)

St Jane Frances de Chantal (1572-1641) Married to a French Baron, she was still young when widowed. She asked (St) Francis de Sales to become her spiritual director and she collaborated with him in the founding of the *Visitation Sisters* for widows or single women, who through age or other reasons were unfitted for more severe orders. By the time of her death, she had opened over 80 houses. St Vincent de Paul, who knew her, described her as one of the holiest people he had ever met.

Thursday 13th August: Feria. (Green). Optional memorias of St Pontianus, Pope & Martyr, and St Hippolytus, Priest & Martyr. (Red); or of Bl William Freeman, Priest & Martyr. (Red)

St Pontianus (d. 235) St Pontianus was Pope for 5 years before being exiled by Emperor Maximus to the salt mines of Sardinia, where he died of ill-treatment.

St Hippolytus was critical of what he perceived to be a lax attitude to sinners and so had himself elected as anti-pope. He also was exiled to the salt mines where he was reconciled to the Church and died a holy death.

Bl William Freeman (1558-95) The martyrdom of Bl Edward Strensham in 1586 inspired William Freeman to escape to France to study for the priesthood. He then ministered in Stafford for six years before he was betrayed as a priest. He was executed at Warwick.

Friday 14th August: St Maximillian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr. (Red). Memoria.

St Maximillian Kolbe (1894-1941) A Polish Franciscan, he had great devotion to Our Lady and in 1917 he started the *Militia of the Immaculata* through which he fostered devotion to Our Lady both in Poland and Japan. He harboured thousands of Jews and refugees at the start of WWII before being captured and imprisoned at Auschwitz. He offered himself for execution in place of a family man and was starved. When others with him died first, the impatient captors decided to hasten his death with a fatal injection. It happened to be the vigil of Our Lady's assumption.

Saturday August 15th: Our Lady on Saturday. Memoria. (White) or Feria. (Green)

- **Low Mass at 8 a.m.**
- **High Mass of the Assumption of Our Lady (1962 Missal) at 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 Assumption) at 5.45 p.m.**

August 16th: Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady. (White)

Mass & Service Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **9.30 a.m. Latin Low Mass 1962 Missal**
- **10.30 a.m. Latin High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **5.30 p.m. Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick: Michael Fitzgerald, Michael McCann, Philip McCann, Thelma Havelin, David Pritchard, Michael Drew, William O'Leary, Connie Hayward, Patrick Walshe, Pat Healey, John Rose, Carole Halls, Celia Fernandez and Sr Francis Clare.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Kevin Loughran

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr Basil Lynch and Fr Michael Day, both of this Oratory, Anne Cronin, Gerry Carter, Edith Dearn, Tony Hockley, Nora Harrison and Bill Shields.

Kevin Loughran's funeral is on Wednesday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: before Mass.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, August 15th/16th, The Assumption of Our Lady:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Morag Marinoni
5.30 p.m.: Simon Stacey

Collections:

Eighteenth Sunday: 2nd August, 2009

Offertory: £1,473

Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £425

Thank you

TODAY

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for the Expenses of Cardinal Newman's Beatification.

119TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARDINAL NEWMAN'S DEATH : Tuesday, 11th August, is the actual anniversary (see below). **Today there will be Prayers at his graveside at the Oratory House, Lea ch Green Lane, Rednal at 3 p.m. (Grounds will open at 2.15 p.m.)**

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, including the Saturday evening Mass.

THIS WEEK

119TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARDINAL NEWMAN'S DEATH is on Tuesday, 11th August: There will be a Concelebrated Mass (in English) here at 7.30 p.m. for his canonisation.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ROSARY RALLY TO PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE & FOR YOUNG PEOPLE will be taking place at Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire, next Sunday 16th August commencing with Mass at 3 p.m. and including Exposition, Blessing of the Sick and Benediction.

FUND RAISING BARBEQUE, music and song in the grounds of **St Chad's Cathedral** on Monday, August 31st from 3-7 p.m. Admission £6. Proceeds to St Chad's Cathedral Maintenance Fund. Tickets available from Cathedral House Reception: 0121 230 6201.

NOTICES

OUR LADY'S 'PILGRIM' STATUE is available for all who wish to welcome Our Lady into their home and deepen their love for her, particularly by saying the Rosary. Our Lady's prayers are all powerful with God. The more we invite her into our hearts, the greater her influence for us with God. She will not only pray for our deepest needs and intentions, but will help us to find the way to a renewal of prayer in our daily lives. In her messages at Fatima, Our Lady pleaded for us to say the Rosary every day. Perhaps having the Statue for a week will help you and your family and friends who may be unfamiliar with the Rosary to develop the love for it which Our Lady so urgently wants.

French male student of music age 22, requires accommodation for the coming academic year: mail to: treomoric@orange.fr

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK by St. John Vianney (Patron of Priests):

"Go to confession to the Blessed Virgin, or to an angel; will they absolve you? No. Will they give you the Body and Blood of Our Lord? No. The Holy Virgin cannot make her Divine Son descend into the Host. You might have two hundred angels there, but they could not absolve you. A priest, however simple he may be, can do it; he can say to you, "Go in peace; I pardon you. " Oh, how great is a priest! The priest will not understand the greatness of his office till he is in Heaven. If he understood it on earth, he would die, not of fear, but of love."