

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 31st 2009: PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)



COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE

When we think of God coming on the earth, we think, of course, of Our Lord, the co-eternal Son of the Father, becoming man in His Mother's womb and being born as a man like us in all things, sin alone excepted.

Yet this is not the whole truth about God coming to dwell with us. For although it is *only* the Son who comes down to earth *as a man*, the Holy Spirit also comes to us in ways that we may often overlook, simply because the Holy Spirit, being God, is invisible. Moreover, the Holy Spirit's coming to us on earth tends to be undemonstrative. In fact, the events of Pentecost, which we hear about in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, are the exception rather than the rule where the coming of the Holy Spirit is concerned.

Even when the Coming of the Holy Spirit was accompanied by signs and wonders, as on the first Pentecost of the Christian era, even those signs were not "personal" as we understand the word: the assembled Apostles heard the sound of a mighty wind, they saw tongues resembling flames come to rest on their heads; but these "signs" do not put us in mind of a person at all. Even the image of the Dove (which plays no part in the account of Pentecost, but comes from Our Lord's Baptism) hardly suggests a "person", as we understand and use the word, much less a Divine Person, co-equal with the Father and the Son.

What is much more significant is the fact that the Apostles were then filled with understanding and courage. Before this they were hidden away "for fear of the Jews", and they had not fully understood our Lord's

teachings even when He left them on the day of the Ascension.

It was only with the coming of the promised gift of the Spirit that they were enabled to overcome these drawbacks. Moreover, as the Acts of the Apostles tells us, the Apostles then spoke about the "marvels of God" with great vigour and clarity and in many tongues to the vast numbers of people assembled from all parts of the world to celebrate the Jewish feast of Pentecost. Before this, men were divided from each other by their many languages. Now they were to be united in one Church and speak in one single language the truth about Christ and salvation.

Why does the Spirit no longer come with the sound of a rushing wind or tongues of fire, for instance, when we are confirmed? Why doesn't He inspire us to speak any longer "in many tongues" as He inspired the Apostles? It is because the Church no longer needs those signs. After all, they were not the reality. The signs were given on that day to alert the Apostles to the beginning of a new era, an era which will last until Our Lord's Second Coming. From that moment when the Holy Spirit's coming was heralded by the sound of the wind and the tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit is continually poured out on the Church day by day wherever the Sacraments are celebrated. The Holy Spirit guarantees that we all share one single faith. No matter where we are born, or in what age, we share in the same faith as that which the Apostles preached on that first Pentecost Day in Jerusalem. It is the Holy Spirit who unites us in our proclamation of the Creed, so that we can all say: "I believe..." and know we mean the same thing.

Moreover, the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts, souls and minds as often as we pray to Him, so that He may inspire us with courage and wisdom. With these gifts of His, we can look at our particular circumstances, and make judgments about what God wants us to do in them. For instance, we live in a society which tends to discount, and even despise, our Catholic Christian faith. The Holy Spirit gives us a wisdom to judge what God wants us to do, and the courage to act accordingly despite any discouragement and opposition which we may have to face.

"Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love."

Sunday May 31st: Pentecost (Red)

- 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. *Sung Congregational Mass*
- 7.30 p.m. *Solemn Vespers and Benediction*

NINTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME: Liturgical Calendar

Year 2 or B of the Lectionary at Mass and Psalter Week 1

Monday to Friday: Masses at 7.30 a.m., 8.30 a.m. (1962 Missal), 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

Rosary at 7.45 p.m. Benediction on Tuesday at 8 p.m. 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 1st June: St Justin. Memoria. (Red).

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

St Justin (c. 100-165) A Palestinian pagan, he converted after witnessing the heroism of the early martyrs. He studied the Scriptures and became the first great Christian philosopher, his writings being the most instructive that the Church possesses from the second century. Records of his arrest and trial still exist; when he was ordered to make sacrifices to gods, he replied: "No right-minded man forsakes truth for falsehood."

Tuesday 2nd June: Feria. (Green) Optional memoria of St Peter and St Marcellinus, Martyrs. (Red)

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

Sts Peter & Marcellinus (d. 303) Included in the Roman Canon of the Mass, both were martyred under the Emperor Diocletian. Peter was a priest, Marcellinus an exorcist.

Wednesday 3rd June: St Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs. Memoria. (Red)

St Charles Lwanga & Comps (d 1885-87) Fr Charles was a White Father who undertook the care of converts who were at the court of the violent paedophile, King Mwanga. However, when the king was made aware that Fr Charles was keeping the young boys away from him, he gathered fifteen young catholic men (all under age 25) and ordered that they renounce their faith. None of them would do so and with Fr Charles, they were executed, almost all being burned alive. The proto-martyrs of Black Africa, we also remember the other Ugandan martyrs killed during Mwanga's reign.

Thursday 4th June: Feria. (Green)

Friday 5th June: St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr. Memoria. (Red).

- **Benediction at 8 p.m. (in honour of the Sacred Heart every Friday in June)**

St Boniface (675-754) From Crediton in Devon, he joined the Benedictines and was a teacher into his 40s before electing to go as a missionary to Germany where the faith was severely tried. He was appointed archbishop of Mainz and changed his name from Winfrith to Boniface. He was known as a lovable man who worked tirelessly and at 75, turned his missionary zeal towards Holland, but his camp was attacked and he and his companions were martyred. He is known as the Apostle of the Germans.

Saturday, June 6th: Our Lady on Saturday (White); or Feria. (Green); or optional memoria of St Norbert, Bishop. (White)

- **Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. (Whit Saturday EFMass 9.30 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 (Trinity Sunday) at 5.45 p.m.**

St Norbert (1080-1134) A German noble, an accident led to his conversion and he became a priest giving all his possessions to the poor. He became an itinerant preacher and in response to his earlier life, took the most difficult routes, even walking barefoot in the snow and ice. He was very successful, particularly in Northern France where he founded the *Premonstratensians* or *Norbertines*. Appointed Bishop of Magdeburg, his reforms led to attempted assassinations, but he was undeterred. He was particularly devoted to the Blessed Sacrament and for this reason, his emblem is a monstrance.

June 7th: The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (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. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Sr Francis Clare, Jean Smith, Peter Young, Doris Wollaston, Connie Hayward, David Dearn, Pat Healey, May Poppins, Katie Hayward, John Rose, Carole Halls, Margaret Casey, John McCann, Patrick Walshe, Raymond Colquhoun and Barry Long. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:** Mary Cunliffe and Aldovino Muro; **and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Fr Stephen Dessain of this Oratory, Barbara Le Geyt, Anna Flynn, Maria Hederfeld, James Darby and Mary McCarthy.

Aldovino Muro's funeral is on Tuesday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains before Mass.

Notice of the date and time of Mary Cunliffe's funeral will be given in next week's Newsletter.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, June 6th/7th, Trinity Sunday:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Brigid Hogan
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Dulcie Robinson
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins

Collections:

The Ascension : 24th May, 2009

Offertory: £1,536

Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £490

Many Thanks

TODAY

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for the DDF

The PIETY STALL is open after all Sunday Masses, *including* after the Saturday evening Vigil Mass. However, there will be no refreshments after the 8.30 and 9.30 Masses today.

LIFE has organised a Petition to be sent to the Advertising Standards Agency to protest against the proposed screening of adverts for Abortion on TV. Please sign it at the back of the Church if you have not been able to do so already.

THIS WEEK

OCTAVE OF PENTECOST: MASS IN EXTRA-ORDINARY FORM (or "Old Rite") will be celebrated each day (Monday—Friday) at 8.30 a.m., and on Saturday at 9.30 a.m., **all in St Philip's Chapel.**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will take place this week on Wednesday, beginning with Mass of Whit Wednesday in the Extraordinary Form at 2.30 p.m., followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.45 p.m.

ORATORY YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (for ages 20-35) **The next formal meeting of the group** will be on Thursday 4th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory House. There will be a speaker followed by discussion about **Islam and, in particular, Sharia Law.** Enquiries to Richard: 07905 601721 or Fr Anton.

The SOCIETY OF ST HUGH will meet on Saturday 6th June at 2 p.m. in the Oratory House.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CORPUS CHRISTI Thursday is June 11th. There will be a High

Mass in the Extraordinary Form, and indoor Procession at 8 p.m. **CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY** is June 14th, when:

- 1) The children of Year 3 in the Oratory Primary School will receive their First Holy communion at the 12 noon Mass.
- 2) The annual outdoor Blessed Sacrament Procession will take place at 4 p.m. Please make a special note in your diaries and encourage your friends and families to come and join in this act of love and homage to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Roses, rose petals or offerings to buy roses for the Procession would be much appreciated from next Sunday.

VIGIL OF REPARATION IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS & THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY will be held here on the night of 19th/20th June. High Mass will be at 8 p.m. on Friday (the Feast of the Sacred Heart) and the Vigil will be held in the Cloister Chapel until 3 a.m. on Saturday 20th. Full details to follow.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL continues the celebrations of its 50th anniversary with 'Families in the Field' on Saturday 20th June. All those who have, or have had, any connection with the school are invited with their families to attend between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to enjoy entertainment and tour the school. Please take a picnic. An open-air Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m.

NOTICES

EASTER DUTIES: The time for fulfilling Easter Duties, that is Confession and Holy Communion, ends next weekend, on Trinity Sunday.