

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.

May 17th 2009: THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



EASTERTIDE AND OUR LADY

As we have been hearing in our daily readings from Cardinal Newman's meditations on the Litany of Loreto, there is a beautiful link between the season of Eastertide and Our Lady. The Cardinal points out that the month of May virtually always falls entirely within Eastertide, and ushers in the summer with its early promise of flowers and sunshine to come. From this fact he draws the parallel with Our Lady who brings into the world our Lord and Saviour, and who in her own character and holiness prepares the way for Him. She is like the dawn of the new day of grace and life after the long night of sin brought upon us by our first parents. She is like this month of the year which is filled with signs of the summer which is almost here, and which has so many beauties of its own to delight us, just like Our Lady herself.

Easter is above all other seasons the time of rejoicing, of anticipating the everlasting joys of heaven. After the rigours of Lent, a time of trial which exactly matches this life of testing and sometimes painful growth in holiness, Easter perfectly represents total enjoyment. Our Lord has won eternal life for all His brothers and sisters, who, like Him, are children of Adam and Eve. Our Lady is the first of those whom He has redeemed. She represents all that we are called to be when finally made perfect in heaven, though of course even in that state of perfect bliss she will be pre-eminent over all angels and saints.

Since Eastertide is above all other seasons the one in which we begin to live the joy of heaven, it is fitting that in Eastertide we honour Our Lady's image here on earth, just as we hope one day to be able to honour her in person when, by God's grace, we reach heaven. In heaven she is crowned Queen by the hand of her own Son, as we see in the mosaic above our High Altar, and in today's picture here, showing the angels and saints praising God for His wonderful gifts of grace shown so completely in her. Here on earth, we have the privilege and joy of crowning her image ourselves and honouring her by singing hymns of joy and thanksgiving to God for giving us such a wonderful woman to be mother of our Redeemer, and our own heavenly loving mother, too. For insofar as we honour Our Lady we both please her Son,

who delights to see His Mother honoured, and also we increase in grace; **because nobody who gives due honour to Mary can fail to be drawn closer to her divine Son.**

For those reasons, please come and take part in the Procession and Crowning of Our Lady's statue next Sunday afternoon, Ascension Sunday, at 4 p.m. Many of you will remember happy May processions from your childhood. The devotion of children to Our Lady is something especially pleasing to Our Lord and won for us as children many graces and joys. We must now do the same for our children of this new generation. They too are called to come to know Our Lord better and be filled with His grace and love through honouring His Mother. Bring your children and encourage your friends and relations to come, too! The greater the number of those who come to honour our Lady, especially when they bring children with them and teach them to honour her, the greater the blessings which will be poured out on our Parish, our families and our schools.

THE CULTURE OF DEATH MUST NOT SUCCEED

The Pro-life cause is under ever fiercer attack not just in this country, but throughout the world. This is because big business is behind the Culture of Death. Please support SPUC in its continuing campaign for the protection of human life. SPUC's latest edition of **PRO-LIFE TIMES** is available free at the Church Doors today. Please take one and get informed about the current situation which we cannot afford to ignore. Also, **LIFE** is organising a Petition against the proposal for Abortion advertising on TV. Please sign it, and remember—this cause is by no means lost, **only so long as we continue to fight for it!**

Sunday May 17th: The Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)

- 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. *Vespers and Benediction*

SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER: Liturgical Calendar

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

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

(Except Thursday): May Devotions at 7.45 p.m. (including the Rosary)

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

18th May: Monday of Easter Week 6. (White) Optional memoria of St John I, Pope & Martyr.

- **May Devotions, including Novena before St Philip's Day, at 7.45 p.m.**

19th May: Tuesday of Easter Week 6. (White) Optional memoria of St Dunstan, Bishop. (White)

- **May Devotions, including Novena before St Philip's Day, at 7.45 p.m.**

St Dunstan (d.988) As abbot of the Benedictine monastery at Glastonbury, he developed the abbey into a centre of learning which, in turn, revitalised other monasteries. He was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and had to fight hard for the rights of the Church. He was responsible for the rebuilding of monasteries which had been destroyed by Danish invaders, and also restored discipline to the clergy.

20th May: Wednesday of Easter Week 6. (White). Optional memoria of St Bernadine of Siena. (White)

- **May Devotions, including Novena before St Philip's Day, at 7.45 p.m.**

St Bernadine of Siena (1380-1444) As a young man in Siena, he took over the running of the hospital during a plague epidemic, after which his life became one of prayer and service to others. He joined the Franciscans and became an itinerant preacher, especially spreading devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He was a popular and humble man, and refused requests to become a bishop.

21st May: Thursday of Easter Week 6. (White) Optional memoria of St Christopher Magallanes & Comps. Martyrs. (Red) Ascension Thursday (40th day after Easter)

- **Ascension Thursday: Mass for Schoolchildren 9.30 a.m. in Church**
- **Solemn High Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form (1962 Missal) at 8 p.m.**

St Christopher Magallanes & Comps: A native Mexican priest, he was much loved for his spiritual and practical help, especially to the native Indians. However, Mexico in the early 20th century was fiercely anti-Catholic and the government accused Fr Christopher of plotting against it. He was executed without a trial. We also remember today twenty-six other Mexicans martyred for the Faith in the 1920s and 1930s.

22nd May: Friday of Easter Week 6. (White). Optional memoria of St Rita of Cascia, Religious. (White)

- **May Devotions, including Novena before St Philip's Day, at 7.45 p.m.**

St Rita of Cascia (d. 1457) Although she had a religious vocation at an early age, her parents insisted on her marriage. She endured an abusive husband until, after eighteen years, he was killed in a brawl. After her adult sons both died, she joined the Augustinian convent in Cascia and soon became known for her charity, and life of prayer. She is the patron of difficult marriages and also hopeless causes.

Saturday, May 23rd: Saturday of Easter Week 6. (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 & from 5.30 p.m.**
- **First Mass of Sunday (Solemnity of the Ascension) at 5.45 p.m.**

24th May: Solemnity of the Ascension

(Transferred) (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)**
- **4.00 p.m. May Procession & Crowning of Our Lady's Statue**
- **5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational in English**
- **7.30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

Please pray for the sick Sr Francis Clare, David Dearn, , Pat Healey, May Poppins, John Rose, Bobby Cunningham, Katie Hayward, Mary Cunliffe, 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: Nancy Smith;

and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Lara Marshall, Freda Stokes, Christopher Duffy, Giuseppina Picariello and Thomas Barnett.

The following are requested to read at Mass next weekend, May 23rd/24th, The Seventh Sunday of Easter:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Murray Wilson-Browne
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: Jason Mahoney

Collections:

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide: 10th May, 2009

Offertory: £1,675

Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £511

Thank you

TODAY

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

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION will be for Cardinal Newman's Cause for canonisation.

SPUC's Pro-Life Times is available at the church doors, free of charge. Please take a copy.

LIFE is organising 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.

APF RED BOXES; there are several of these still awaiting collection from the sacristy. Please collect them from Monica Hynes at the back of church today!

THIS WEEK

MAY DEVOTIONS & NOVENA BEFORE ST PHILIP'S DAY continue each weekday evening (except Thursday—see below) starting at 7.45 p.m. with the Rosary, and ending with Benediction AT APPROX 8.20 P.M..

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT REDNAL will take place this week on Thursday, beginning with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m. and ending with Benediction at c. 4.45 p.m. N.b. **There will be no Mass.**

ASCENSION DAY is now officially celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (May 24th), but as has become customary, **we will also be celebrating a Solemn High Mass of the Ascension on the former feast day, Thursday,**

May 21st at 8 p.m. There will also be a Mass in church for the Schoolchildren at 9.30 a.m.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: The next meeting will be in Edgbaston on 20th May from 2—4 p.m. when the speaker will be Raymond De Souza and the topic *Mysterium Fidei*. Raymond is the Founder and Director of Saint Gabriel Communications, Australia's first international outreach promoting Catholic Apologetics. He is also the Chairman of the New Evangelization Office of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the United States and EWTN program host. All women are welcome. For more details contact Mrs. Jackie Parkes: 688 4154.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our MAY PROCESSION is *next Sunday* at 4 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY (Ascension Day) is also a day of prayer for the Church in China, which is still subject to terrible hardships and persecution. Faithfulness to Christ and the One True Church He founded still draws a heavy penalty from the Communist authorities, who seek instead to browbeat Catholics into a State-run Church. Bishops and Priests who are faithful to the Pope are especially persecuted. We must support the Catholics of China in as many ways as possible. Prayer cards of *Our Lady of Sheshan* will be available.

ST. PHILIP'S DAY celebrations begin with Solemn First Vespers at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th May, and conclude with Pontifical High Mass, at which the Celebrant and Preacher will be John Cardinal Foley, on Tuesday 26th May at 7 p.m.