

THE ORATORY—dedicated to THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Registered as a Charity

Parish Weekly Newsletter

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August 26th 2007: The Twenty-first Sunday of the Year

The Provost writes:

OUR HOPE OF SALVATION

During my recent visit to Pittsburgh, I attended the annual National Newman Conference and was most impressed with the standard of the papers given at it – many of them by young Newman scholars from various American universities. These young men and women have yet to make their mark in the academic world, but it is good to know that the future of Newman studies rests in such capable and enthusiastic hands.

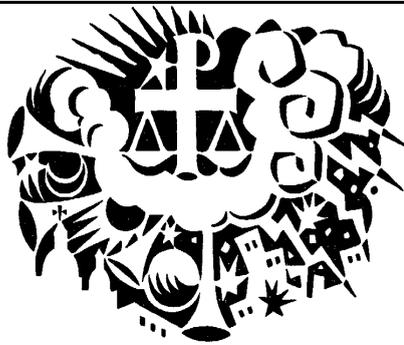
One or two papers at the Conference dealt with the subject of Cardinal Newman as a prophetic figure – that is, with the way in which he predicted many of the problems and crises our Church faces nowadays. The Cardinal foretold a time when the great problem would be indifference – people would adopt a take-it or leave-it approach to the Faith and would ultimately not be bothered very much, if at all, with the truths of religion. He also warned against an over-comfortable approach to the Faith, the sort of view which maintains that God is so good and kind and forgiving that it does not really matter what we get up to here, it will all be alright in the end. Of course, God is good and kind and forgiving, but that does not mean that we have a *carte blanche* to do whatever we like!

As this Sunday's Gospel tells us, all are invited to attend the feast in God's kingdom, but not all will choose to come. The gate is narrow and the road is hard, and we are easily tempted to sit at home in comfort and dine at the table of our own will rather than make the attempt. The consequences of failure are spelt out in rather a dramatic form by Our Lord. Perhaps the most horrifying scenario imaginable is to think of us standing outside knocking on a locked door and to hear Our Lord tell us: "I do not know you". We must all of us say yes to the relationship Christ wants to have with us; we must all be prepared to change and conform our lives to the demands of that calling to be God's children. That is what being a disciple means – that word comes from a Latin word meaning "to learn". To learn the way of Christ, to follow in His footsteps, means facing the disciplines that



make such learning possible. Sometimes we will need to be corrected, lest we go astray on destructive paths. Such corrections are ultimately acts of love on God's part, for He does not want us to be lost. Only in this way will we be fit to enter into that wonderful feast prepared for those who love God.

Just as we are rightly concerned about our own salvation, so we should be concerned for that of others, particularly in our contemporary society, bedevilled by so many problems – illustrated for us in graphic and horrific terms this past week with the shooting dead of one child by another in Liverpool. Our prayers, good example and help are all needed, so as to try to influence others to walk in the ways of God. Monday's feast of St Monica presents us with a woman who wept and prayed for her son, Augustine, to find faith and salvation. Eventually her prayers were answered. St Monica could well be invoked as the patron saint of "useless sons" and of problem families. Just as she persevered in prayer, so may we, trusting that in His mercy God will hear us and help our broken society and our broken families to find the peace and salvation only He can give.



At the sound of the last trump when this world shall pass away, Christ, the supreme Judge, will weigh our souls in His unerring scales.

Sunday August 26th: The 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time (Green)

Year 3 or C of the Lectionary at Mass

- 8.30 a.m. Low Mass
- 10.30 a.m. High Mass
- 12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)
- 12.45 p.m. Tridentine Mass (in the Cloister Chapel)
- 5.30 p.m. Sung Congregational Mass
- Vespers and Benediction at 7.30 p.m.

The TWENTY-FIRST WEEK OF THE YEAR: Liturgical Calendar

Tuesday 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 August 27th: St Monica. Memoria. (White) BANK HOLIDAY

- Masses at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. only.
- No evening Devotions

St Monica (331-387): mother of three, including St Augustine whose feast day is tomorrow. Married to a pagan, her husband's and son's indifference to her faith deeply upset her. Through gentle patience and prayer, her husband was converted but Augustine continued to live a dissolute life. After being widowed, she followed him, praying constantly for her son's conversion, and during that time she met St Ambrose, becoming a disciple of his. He told her that her prayers and tears would not be in vain and Augustine was baptised shortly before her death.

Tuesday August 28th: St Augustine of Hippo, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. (White) St Edmund Arrowsmith, English Martyr.

- **Benediction at 8 p.m.** Brothers of the Little Oratory meet after Benediction

St Augustine (d.430) Having led a dissolute life, he was baptised at 33, ordained four years later and elected Bishop of Hippo. Of great intellect, he became one of the greatest theologians and is undoubtedly one of the most influential Doctors of the Church.

St Edmund Arrowsmith (d. 1628) His family suffered much for the Faith, his parents even being imprisoned for a while when he was a small boy. He became a secular priest at Douay, later joining the Jesuits, and worked in Lancashire for fifteen years before being condemned for being a “persuader to popery”. The judge ordered his execution for noon in the hope that most people would be dining and there would be fewer witnesses, but the crowds were enormous. St Edmund was hanged drawn and quartered, and many spectators were appalled and “wished their souls with his”.

Wednesday August 29th: The Beheading of St John the Baptist. Memoria. (Red)

The Beheading of St John the Baptist (d. c.29) St. John had been thrown into prison for rebuking Herod for marrying his half-brother’s wife, Herodias. In a moment of folly, Herod promised Salome, Herodias’ daughter, anything she wanted and, prompted by her mother, she requested the head of St John. Thus, as St Augustine said: “An oath that was rashly taken was criminally kept.”

Thursday August 30th: Bl Juvenal Ancina, Oratorian Priest. Memoria. (White)
Sts Margaret Clitherow, Ann Line and Margaret Ward, English Martyrs.

Bl Juvenal (1545-1604) A graduate of both medicine and philosophy, he joined the Oratory in Rome, and was ordained at 33. St Philip sent him to found the Oratory in Naples, where he was instrumental in the building of a magnificent shrine to the city’s patron, St Januarius. Pope Clement VIII appointed him Bishop of Saluzzo, where heresy was rife, and he set about reforming the lax behaviour of the clergy. He announced the founding of a seminary, and organised increased devotions to the Blessed Sacrament. He died of suspected poisoning only a year after his appointment as Bishop.

St Margaret Clitherow (1556-86), **St Margaret Ward** (d.1588) and **St Ann Line** (d.1601) were all condemned for having harboured or assisted priests: Margaret Clitherow, to protect her children, refused to plead to the charges laid against her and was pressed to death. Margaret Ward was hung by her hands and beaten, then executed at Tyburn for her continued refusal to attend Protestant services. Mass was being celebrated on Candlemas Day at Ann Line’s house when it was raided. She managed to get the priest away but was arrested herself. She too was hanged at Tyburn.

Friday August 31st: Feria. (Green) *Optional memoria of St Aidan and the Saints of Lindisfarne.* (White)

St Aidan & the Sts of Lindisfarne (7th cent) St Aidan founded the famous monastery which produced many holy missionaries and bishops, who brought the Faith to this country, particularly to the North.

Saturday September 1st: Our Lady on Saturday (White); or **Feria.** (Green).

- **Mass 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**
- **Vigil Mass of the TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR at 5.45 p.m.**

Sunday September 2nd: The TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Green)

Mass Times:

- **8.30 a.m. Low Mass**
- **10.30 a.m. High Mass**
- **12.00 p.m. (Families with young children)**
- **12.45 p.m. In the Tridentine Rite (In the Cloister Chapel)**
- **5.30 p.m. Low Mass**
- **Vespers and Benediction: 7.30**

Please pray for the sick:

Barbara Carey, Douglas Verrier, Elizabeth Snape, Edward Snape, Emily Nugent, Mary Mackay, Danuta Slyzyk, Kate McCann, Richard Sturgis and Jacqueline Griffiths.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fr James Downey, Charles Chavasse, Moira Stepney, Louisa Dutton and Cecilia Coutts.

The following are requested to read next weekend, September 1st/2nd, Twenty-second Sunday of the Year:

Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Geoff Jones
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Margaret Hawkins
12.00 p.m.: Dennis Wood
5.30 p.m.: David Doran

Collections:

Twentieth Sunday, 19th August:

Offertory: £1,360

Second: DDF: £503

Thank you.

The Second Collection today will be for the Diocesan Development Fund

Next week’s Second Collection will also be for the Diocesan Development Fund

TODAY

The SECOND COLLECTION is for the Diocesan Development Fund

“THE KINDLY LIGHT” the LIFE OF CARDINAL NEWMAN in 3 Audio CD’s has just been published and comes highly recommended. It includes interviews with Fr Paul, readings from Cardinal Newman’s writings by Fr Guy, and also Cardinal Newman’s hymn ‘Lead Kindly Light’ sung by our choir. It is on sale in our Piety Stall at a cost of £10.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY is a Bank Holiday: Masses will be at 8 and 11 a.m. only. There will be no evening devotions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON HALL: The annual pilgrimage to the shrine of the English Martyrs will take place next Sunday, 2nd September. Confessions from 1.45—2.30 p.m. Mass at 3 p.m. Please note that it is essential to take your own chairs. Free timed *tours of the Hall* are available on the day, subject to availability, and *only if booked in advance:* 01562777846. For more details, please see the notice board.

The LEGION OF MARY is holding an event at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 8th September in the Oratory House, in honour of Our Lady’s birthday, for active and Auxiliary members and enquirers. On Sunday 9th September, there will be an appeal at all Masses for new members.

The CATHOLIC WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB meets on Tuesday 11th September from 12—2 p.m. Jackie Parkes writes: “We will be reading Pope Benedict

XVI’s book ‘Jesus of Nazareth’ and you will need your own copy. It is available at the Piety Stall at the special offer price of £12.95”. New members welcome. Contact Jackie on 688 4154 rosary@blueyonder.co.uk

NOTICES

SUNDAY 5.30 p.m. MASS CHOIR During the month of August there will be no music at the Sunday evening Mass. *The choir will resume next Sunday, September 2nd. Newcomers are also welcome to turn up at 5 p.m.*

THE HELPERS OF GOD’S PRECIOUS INFANTS meet at the back of Church every Saturday after the 8 a.m. Mass to go and pray outside the Calthorpe Clinic on Arthur Road. Their witness is of great importance outside one of the busiest death-factories in the country. Please come and join us, or support us in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

HAGLEY ROAD will be **CLOSED** for a Marathon run on Sunday September 16th from 9.30 to 12 noon. During this time it will be possible to cross over at Five Ways Traffic Island, so that access to the Oratory can be made via Ladywood Middleway, Monument Road and Plough & Harrow road. Exiting Plough & Harrow Rd will be possible via Beauport Rd.

MUSIC STUDENT (first year) requires accommodation with Catholic family. Please see Fr Gregory.