

# 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.*

### June 1st 2008: THE NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

#### “LORD, LORD!”



Today we return to the cycle of readings from St. Matthew's Gospel that we interrupted since Lent. Our Lord warns against shallow, or insincere, discipleship. It is not enough to call Him “Lord”, nor even to work miracles in His name! To be worthy of Him we must “do the will of His Father in heaven”. It is a fitting moment to examine our consciences and ask: Do we really do enough to show that we are Christ's disciples? How do we witness to Him in our daily lives? No one can possibly claim that there is nothing that he or she can do—we live in a time when fewer and fewer people know or respect anything about Christ and His Church. How will they find out these things if we do not help them? Here's one way how...

#### JERICHO AND LIFE

Last week Truth suffered a massive blow in the House of Commons when all pro-life amendments to the *Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill* were voted out. On all four crucial issues - the need for a father; the creation of “saviour siblings”; the creation of human/animal hybrid embryos; the lowering of the time limit for abortion—all were lost. Of course it did not help that the Government imposed a whip, but it is clear that even without a whip, there is now a massive anti-life and indeed anti-Christian bloc in Parliament which ignores and despises all religious groups or arguments.

It would be all too easy to be despondent in the face of this defeat and shake our heads and say, “We've tried our best; God can't ask any more of us in fairness, can He?” Well. God can, and often in such circumstances God *does* ask us not just to continue, but to *redouble* our efforts. That is what Bishop O'Donoghue has done in a magnificent statement in the wake of the HFE vote last week. The Bishop points out the dishonesty of the supporters of the HFE Bill: “as I understand it, there is not a shred of scientific evidence to support those who promote the benefits of creating human-animal hybrids. What we witnessed in the vote ....was a partisan act of faith that experimentation will at some distant time result in cures for Alzheimer's, MS and other diseases”. When it comes to abortion, he deals crisply with the principle of the “ability to survive independently” as the criterion determining the time limit for killing a baby: “It's farcical to think that the definition of a human person depends on being able to exist on one's own. Human life is a series of inter-related dependencies at all stages of our existence.”

What has this to do with Jericho? As you will see on the other side of this Newsletter, we are once again supporting a wonderful act of prayer and witness outside our local abortion factory. The “Siege of Jericho”, which will take place in the week June 9th to 15th, is named after the famous events described in chapter 6 of the Book of Joshua when the Israelites conquered the great city of Jericho by prayer and hymns rather than by weapons. The children of Israel were understandably cowed by the enormity of the task before them; Jericho was a mighty city, well defended. Yet they put their trust not in their own prowess but in God, and so they won. We also adopt the same method with regard to abortion—a mighty a powerful industry that seems impregnable. But by God's power, which no darkness can withstand, the victory shall be won. We must not lose heart now. Remember the great Wilberforce, whose victory in Parliament over the slave trade was won 200 years ago this year. Don't forget this was not won easily or quickly. Wilberforce endured years of discouragement and opposition. Yet he believed that God wanted him to continue fighting against huge odds. Only after a huge struggle was his faith in God rewarded. Let Bishop O'Donoghue's stirring words give us a similar courage and determination: “During the 19th century, slavers said black people weren't human. They were wrong. During the 20th century, the Nazis said Jews weren't human. They were wrong. Since 1967, the House of Commons has said the unborn are not human. They, too, are wrong.” indeed, it is becoming clear that the Commons are out of touch with many of our fellow citizens' attitudes to these massively important issues. Yet MPs are answerable to us, the electors. A General Election will be at most three years away, possibly less. We must be ready to test candidates on these issues, even to stand ourselves. Wilberforce never gave up his struggle. Neither must we.

#### Sunday June 1st: Ninth Sunday of the Year (Green)

*Year I 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*

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

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

**St Peter & St Marcellinus:** Peter was an exorcist and Marcellinus a priest. They were martyred during the Diocletian persecutions in c. 304. Little is known of them but it is said that Pope St. Damasus recounted that he had heard of these two martyrs from their executioner who converted following their deaths. They have been venerated since early times and their names are included in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

**Tuesday June 3rd: St Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs. Memoria. (Red)**

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

**St Charles Lwanga & Companions** (d.1885-87), the Proto-martyrs of Black Africa: In the first six years of their missions in Uganda, the White Fathers had significant success. Many of the converts were members of the court of the violent paedophile King, Mwangi. Fr Charles took over the care of the Christians at court, keeping the young boys away from the king, but when he discovered this, he gathered all the Christians and ordered that they renounce their religion. None of the fifteen young men (all under 25) would do so. They were executed, with Fr Charles, almost all being burned alive. We remember also the other Ugandan martyrs killed in the period of Mwangi's reign.

**Wednesday June 4th: Feria. (Green)**

**Thursday June 5th: St Boniface, Bishop and Martyr. Memoria. (Red)**

**St Boniface** (675-754) Born in Crediton, Devon, he was baptized Winfrith. He joined the Benedictines and was a teacher, compiling the first Latin grammar in England. He elected to go as a missionary to Germany, and when he was appointed Archbishop of Mainz, he took the name "Boniface" as a pledge of his loyalty to the Pope. His reputation was that of a holy and lovable man who worked tirelessly. In his old age, he turned his attention to Holland and went on a mission to Dokkum, but he and his companions were set upon by heathens and were martyred.

**Friday June 6th: Feria. (Green). Optional memoria of St Norbert. Religious. (White)**

**St Norbert** (1080-1134): A German noble, he lived a worldly life until a riding accident led to a major conversion. He became a priest then gave his possessions to the poor and became an itinerant preacher, in response to his earlier life, taking the most difficult routes—even walking barefoot in ice and snow. He had great success in his missions, particularly in Northern France where he started a community of Canons Regular—the *Premonstratensians* or *Norbertines*. He was a reformer which made his appointment as Bishop of Magdeburg unpopular but despite attempted assassinations, he was undeterred. His emblem is a monstrance due to his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

**Saturday June 7th: 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 and Novena before St Philip's Day 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: Tenth Sunday of the Year, at 5.45 p.m.**

**Sunday June 8th: The Tenth 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** Peter Young, Stephen Realf, Antonietta Boffa, Maria Papa, Desmond Williams, Patrick Hurley, Margaret Casey, Lorna O'Shea, Vivian Beesley, Marie-Thérèse Jones, Cathal McGrory, Veronica Smith, Ellen Westwood and Frank McGuinness. **Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: Robert Nugent; and of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur about now: Barbara Le Geyt, Anna Flynn and James and Patrick Kearney.**

Robert Nugent's funeral is on Tuesday at 12.45 p.m. Reception of remains: Monday at 4.30 p.m.

**The following are requested to read next week-end, June 7th / 8th: Tenth Sunday of the Year:**

*Saturday 5.45 p.m.: Anne Roebuck  
Sunday 8.30 a.m.: Paddy Martin  
12.00 p.m. Dennis Wood  
5.30 p.m.: Brendan Cummins*

#### **Collections**

*Corpus Christi Sunday, 25th May:  
Offertory: £1,574*

*Second: Diocesan Development Fund: £427  
Thank you*

**Second Collection today: for the DDF  
Next week the White Flower Collection for SPUC  
will be taken up after Mass**

#### **TODAY**

**FRIENDS OF THE POOR CLARES** will be selling raffle tickets here today, and will also be looking to recruit new members.

#### **THIS WEEK**

**ADORATION AT REDNAL** will take place this week on Wednesday commencing with Mass at 2.30 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession around the grounds. *Please continue to pray that planning permission for the security fence will be granted.*

**The APF ANNUAL MASS** for all collectors, box holders and friends of the Missions takes place on Saturday 7th June at Our Lady of the Assumption in Coventry. Mass is at 3 p.m. Some refreshments will be provided. Transport is arranged to leave our car park at 1.30 p.m. prompt, *but Please contact Monica Hynes on 427 2039, by the end of today, if you are intending to go to the event.*

**SOCIETY OF ST HUGH OF LINCOLN** meets on Saturday, 8th June at 10 a.m. in the Oratory House. New members are most welcome.

**ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL** Fundraising Dance and Social on Friday 6th June at Grimshaw Room, Shadwell St., (St Chad's). Music by Little Jimmy and Friends; Tickets £5 Doors open at 8 p.m. Contact 01212306201 for tickets.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**"THE SIEGE OF JERICHO"** This year will take place from Monday 9th June to Sunday 15th June. from Monday to Saturday, there will be Mass here at 3 p.m. which will be followed by a procession, led by a priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament on his person, to the Calthorpe (abortion) Clinic in Arthur Road. The Rosary will be said along

Solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament (exposed) will take place around the clinic, commencing at 2 p.m. in Arthur Road. We hope you will make your best effort to be there. For those who cannot take part, please support us with your prayers.

**THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES, HEDNESFORD** takes place on Saturday 6th July, commencing with Rosary at 3 p.m. Mass is at 4 p.m. and will be followed by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and blessing of the sick. For full details, including directions to get there, see the poster in the cloisters.

**THE LATIN MASS SOCIETY** is celebrating its annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Winefride at Holywell, North Wales, on Sunday, July 6th with a Solemn High Mass at 2.30 p.m. See the poster for details.

#### **NOTICES**

**The FRIENDS OF CARDINAL NEWMAN** are missing a back number of their *Newsletter of Christmas 1990*. If any one has a copy, please would they lend it to Fr Gregory.

**ORATORY OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT FUND:** Many thanks to those who contribute to the ACN box at the back of church for our overseas project. We have been able to send another £1,000 to Aid to the Church in Need towards the building of a seminary in the Ukraine.

**REDNAL GROUNDS DAY.** On Saturday, July 5th (weather permitting) we would like to invite volunteers to come to Rednal and help to do some basic work clearing the paths and trimming bushes etc. under the expert guidance of our gardener, Glenn Fraser. Food and drink will be provided during the course of the day. There will be a list at the Church doors for volunteers to sign up and indicate if they can