



Pentecost

Sunday 24th May - Pentecost

(Sat) 17:00 - Holy Mass: Pro Populo
 8:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Paclawski Family, RIP
 10:00 - Holy Mass: Eduardo Benedito
 11:15 - Holy Mass: Teresa Jonker, RIP
 16:00 - Vespers and Benediction

Bank Holiday

Monday 25th May - Mary, Mother of the Church

*08:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Ianni & Zurlo Families, RIP
 *10:00 - Holy Mass: Veronica Williams, RIP
 ❖ Church will close at Midday

Tuesday 26th May - St. Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratory

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Teresa Jonker, RIP
 8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
 09:30 - Holy Mass: Richard, RIP
 17:00 - Vespers
 * 19:00 - Holy Mass: Pro Populo

Wednesday 27th May - St. Augustine of Canterbury

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Pamela England, RIP
 19:00 - Holy Mass: Giovanna Durante, RIP

Thursday 28th May - Our Lord Eternal High Priest

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Steven Whittle, RIP
 8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
 09:30 - Holy Mass: Little Company of Mary Sisters, RIP
 17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Friday 29th May - St. Paul VI

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Veronica Williams, RIP
 8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
 09:30 - Holy Mass: Francis & Stella Harris, RIP
 17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Saturday 30th - Our Lady's Saturday

08:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Deceased Electricians, RIP
 16:30 - First Vespers
 17:00 - Holy Mass: Keith Thomas, RIP

Sunday 31st May - The Most Holy Trinity

8:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Benefactors, Priests, & Friends, RIP
 10:00 - Holy Mass: Cyril & Bridget George, RIP
 11:15 - Holy Mass: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
 16:00 - Vespers and Benediction

CONFESSION TIMES

Sundays: 15 minutes before and during all Masses
 Weekdays: 7:15 to 7.30am ; 9:00 to 9:30am

Since the time of St. Philip Neri, the Fathers of the Oratory have made themselves available for Confessions during daily Mass. Outside of these set times, there is a Confessional Bell positioned in between the two Confessional Boxes in the Church. Ring to alert a Priest.

ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9.00-9.30am
 Wednesday 6.00 - 7.00pm

HOLY ROSARY

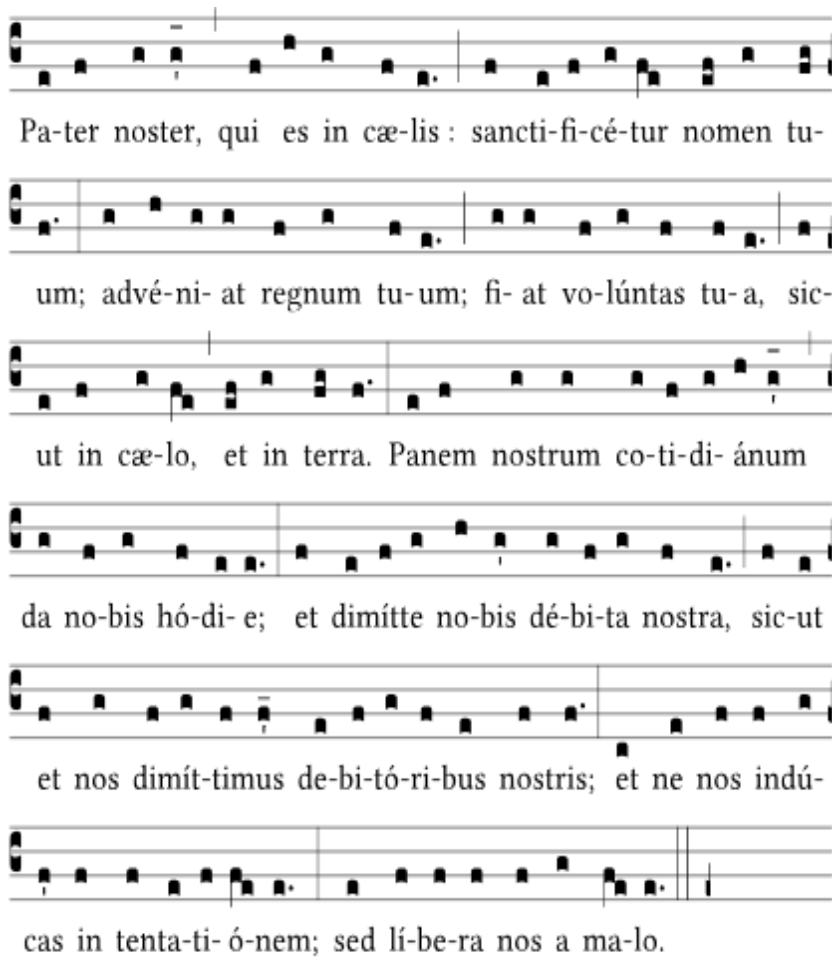
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 5:30pm
 Wednesday: 6:00pm

The community pray the Rosary daily for the intentions of the Parish, for those who are sick and have died recently. If you would like an intention added to the list please let one of the community know.



VENERATION OF THE RELIC OF ST. PHILIP NERI

Friday: After morning Masses
The veneration of the relic of St. Philip Neri is a long-standing Oratory custom. When we pray before his relic, we ask for his intercession and strength to live more faithfully as Catholics.



Pa-ter nos-ter, qui es in cæ-lis : sancti-fi-cé-tur no-men tu-
 um; advé-ni- at regnum tu-um; fi- at vo-lúntas tu-a, sic-
 ut in cæ-lo, et in terra. Panem nostrum co-ti-di-ánum
 da no-bis hó-di-e; et dimítte no-bis dé-bi-ta nostra, sic-ut
 et nos dimít-timus de-bi-tó-ri-bus nostris; et ne nos indú-
 cas in tenta-ti-ó-nem; sed lí-be-ra nos a ma-lo.

On Sunday the 31st May, the Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia will be conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 10am Mass.

It is the custom that we sing the Our Father in Latin when the Archbishop visits. This is done to show our unity with our Archbishop who is the successor to the Apostles. This is why there is a seventh candle lit near the crucifix on the High Altar. The Archbishop represents the fullness of the Church in a particular place, and the liturgy he celebrates is meant to manifest that communion with the Universal Church.

PRAYERS REQUESTED for the SICK

Please join the Cardiff Oratory Fathers and Brothers in praying daily for the sick and those who have care for them.

Joseph, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Bernie Horan, Patricia Kelly, Sylvia Hole, Bill Jonker, Christine Elsmore, Kenneth Pinder, Terry Hardy, Eileen Sparkes, Ena Gray, Paul Marshall, Angela Bullard, Joan Wheeler, Alan Turner, Dawn, Alun Edwards, Dina Williams, Elaine Molan, Edgar Guerin, Dai Thomas, Marilyn Maunder, Len Reece, Dooley, Sian Haffield, Dianna Ward, Mike Grant, Shirley O'Leary, Victoria Sweeney, A.& N Xavier Philips, Kevin Harris, Kate, Pauline Cook, Daniel Doran, Rita Taylor, John C. Keenan, Shirley Thomas, Anne, Daniel, Sarah Caswell, Mary May Cassidy, Rosa Tannorella, Gary Britton, Clare Schwartz, Martin Flynn, Darren, Summer Hutchinson, Johnnie Doherty, Patricia Yarwood, Libby Conway, Summer Arnesen, Diane, Laura, Jane, Lucy Iacobucci, Jason Benedito, Gareth Bowen, Ann Henry, Sarah, Claire Hawkey, Danielle Camilleri, Jane Morris, Jonathan Bowen.

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
 From the clear celestial height.
 Thy pure beaming radiance give.
 Come, thou Father of the poor,
 Come, with treasures which endure;
 Come, Thou Light of all that live!
 Thou, of all consolors best,
 Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
 Dost refreshing peace bestow.
 Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
 Pleasant coolness in the heat;
 Solace in the midst of woe.
 Light immortal, Light divine,
 Visit thou these hearts of thine,
 And our inmost being fill.



If Thou take Thy grace away,
 Nothing pure in man will stay;
 All his good is turned to ill.
 Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
 On our dryness pour Thy dew,
 Wash the stains of guilt away.
 Bend the stubborn heart and will;
 Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
 Guide the steps that go astray.
 Thou, on us who evermore
 Thee confess and Thee adore,
 With thy sevenfold gifts descend.
 Give us comfort when we die;
 Give us life with thee on high;
 Give us joys that never end.
 Amen. Alleluia!

CONFIRMATION 2026

On Sunday the 31st May, the Archbishop will visit St. Alban's to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If your child is in years 7/8 and would like to receive this final Sacrament of Initiation please speak to Fr Sebastian M.

"By the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."
(Catechism of the Catholic Church - 1285)

Young Adult Classes:
Next Class - 30th May at 11am
St. Alban's, Swinton Street,
CF24 2NX



Fr Sebastian Writes...

The Solemnity of Pentecost stands among the most radiant feasts of the Catholic Calendar, bringing to fulfilment the mysteries of Eastertide. Fifty days after the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles gathered with Our Lady in the Upper Room, appearing as tongues of fire and filling them with Divine courage. In that moment the fearful disciples became heralds of the Gospel, and the Catholic Church emerged publicly into the ancient world. Pentecost is therefore not merely a remembrance of an historical event, but the celebration of the living Holy Spirit and a manifestation of the Trinitarian God: the Father sending the Spirit through the risen and ascended Son for the sanctification of the world. The Feast of Pentecost reveals the Divine Life of the Most Holy Trinity poured forth upon the Catholic Church renewing the face of the earth.

In parish traditions before the Reformation, Whitsun, the English name for Pentecost, was one of the most beloved and festive seasons of the year. The Paschal candle still burned near the altar, churches were adorned with flowers and greenery, and vestments of rich red recalled

the fire of the Spirit. Medieval rood screens and church walls often bore painted flames or doves to mark the feast. In many parishes rose petals were scattered from the church roof during Mass to symbolise the descent of fiery tongues upon the Apostles, while white doves were sometimes released within the nave as emblems of the Holy Spirit.

The Whitsuntide celebrations extended beyond the Sacred Liturgy into the whole life of the town or village. Parish ales were brewed, processions, mystery plays, and charitable gatherings commonly took place during the Octave of Pentecost. It was a season associated with joy, reconciliation, and communal thanksgiving after the austerity of Lent and the solemnity of Holy Week. Baptisms were frequently administered at Pentecost, as they had been from the earliest centuries of the Church, and this contributed greatly to the distinctive English title of the feast.

The origin of the word "Whitsun" or "Whitsunday" has long been discussed by scholars, yet the most widely accepted explanation connects it to the white garments worn by newly baptised Christians. In Old English the feast was called Hwita Sunnandæg, meaning "White Sunday." Catechumens baptised during the vigil of Pentecost wore white robes throughout the following days as a sign of their purification and new life in Christ. The same custom also influenced the naming of Whit Monday and Whitsuntide generally. Another interpretation associates the "white" with the brightness and radiance of the Holy Spirit, though the baptismal explanation remains historically stronger.

The beauty of Pentecost in the old traditions of our island lay precisely in this union of Heaven and earth: Solemn Masses and processions, sacramental grace, Parish festivals from which nourished the flowering of Catholic and hence European culture. Faith in the Holy Spirit was not regarded as an abstract doctrine, but embracing the giver of life to the Church, to the nation, and to every soul. Even now, amid modern distractions, Pentecost still calls the Catholic faithful to fan their Catholic faith into a flame responding to the Divine Life first set alight in their Baptism. The sacred fire of Pentecost is not an external sign, even noble like the burning bush, the pillar of fire in the wilderness, or the radiant glow upon the face of Moses descending from Sinai. Rather, it is the all-consuming Divine Passion, a stirring love, poured by the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the Apostles and Disciples, strengthening them to preach the Gospel unto the ends of the earth and to establish Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church in communion with Peter and his successors. The flame hasn't died, nor the call ceased. Catholics spend too much time raking over the coals of the past or reminiscing on Woodstock sentimentality. Now is the time to "Fan the flame!"



ST ALBAN'S PARISH, CARDIFF
MONEY MATTERS

Our Bank Details:

Name: Oratory of St Philip Neri at Cardiff
Account: 20222572 ~ Sort Code: 52-21-06
NATWEST Bank, Cardiff Branch
Registered Charity: 1170563

Parish Giving

Gift Aid (Green Envelopes): £283.00
Loose: £145.95
Online Banking: £770.60

Restoration Fund Giving
Gift Aid (Yellow Envelopes): £236.00
Restoration Fund: £87.73
***Donation:** £800.00*

Total
£2,323.28

* Fr Sebastian would like to thank the generous donation from a parishioner last week. May God reward you all.*



Of your charity
Please pray for the souls of

Mr Alan George Legge, RIP

Requiem Mass on the 11th June at 11am

Ms Pauline Osborne, RIP

Requiem Mass on the 25th June at 11am

&

Canon Jason Jones, RIP

who died in the course of the week.

*Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.*

Sacred Music at the Oratory

Sacred music holds a privileged place in the life of the Church because it lifts the mind and heart to God and deepens the prayer of the faithful. Music is not merely decoration for the liturgy; it is an integral part of divine worship itself. Through chant, hymnody, and sacred polyphony, the truths of the Faith are expressed with beauty and reverence, helping the faithful to participate more fully in the sacred mysteries. Sacred music also unites the congregation in one voice of prayer and reflects the harmony of Heaven itself.

The Second Vatican Council taught in Sacrosanctum Concilium that: "The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value." To help this great tradition to carry on a thrive, the Oratory has entrusted the role of musical director to Mr Derek Webb. He joins us from the Gloucester Cathedral choir and he previously spent time in the diocese of Cahors, France where he taught chant. He has already been active in the Parish by assisting the community at Vespers and leading the two Parish choirs. There are plans for singing and chant lessons starting soon, if you are interested, please email music@cardifforatory.co.uk



Of your charity
Please pray for the soul of



Maureen Margert Miller, RIP
(Fr Sebastian M.'s Cousin)

Who died on the 15th April and whose funeral was on Friday 22nd May.

*Eternal Rest grant unto her O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May they she in peace.*

Upcoming Events

No Tai Chi this week due to Bank Holiday

Saturday 30th May

Quiz Night

19:00-22:00

The Monthly Quiz night will take place where you can test your brains on various topics. Money raised will go towards the restoration fund.

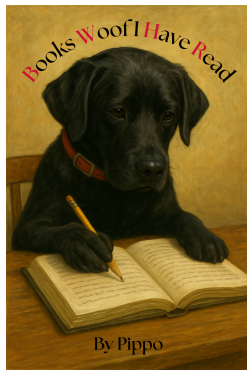


Tuesday 2nd June

Coffee Morning with 200 club Draw.

10:00-12:00





This week I read, *Shadow King: The Life and Death of Henry VI* by Lauren Johnson is a richly detailed historical biography that examines the tragic reign of King Henry VI, one of England's most misunderstood monarchs. Johnson very ably reconstructs the political instability, personal suffering, and dynastic conflict that shaped Fifteenth-Century England and eventually led to the Wars of the Roses. Rather than presenting Henry VI as simply a weak ruler, Johnson offers a competent portrait of the deeply religious, gentle, and emotionally troubled king struggling to survive in a brutal political world.

The book traces Henry's life from his infancy, when he inherited the English and French crowns after the death of his father, Henry V. Unlike his famous warrior father, he lacked military ambition and political strength. Johnson carefully explores how his personality, marked by kindness and deep Catholic piety, made him unsuited to the harsh realities of worldly kingship during a time of national crisis. The loss of English territories in France, the growing ambitions of powerful nobles, and Henry's recurring emotional trauma gradually weakened the monarchy and opened the door to internal warfare.

One of the greatest strengths of *Shadow King* is Johnson's ability to combine academic scholarship and coffee table narrative. The book is well researched, yet it reads with the pace and drama of a good historical novel. Johnson vividly recreates the atmosphere of Mediaeval England through detailed descriptions of court politics, warfare, ceremonies, and everyday life. Her portrayal of key historical figures such as Margaret of Anjou, Richard Duke of York, and Edward IV adds complexity to the story and presents the tyrannical individuals surrounding the throne.

Johnson also succeeds in humanising Henry VI. While many historians portray him as incompetent, she excites sympathy for a man burdened by impossible expectations and deep personal psychological suffering. His periods of emotional collapse are described with sensitivity, identifying how illness affected not only his personal life but also the stability of the kingdom. Henry's failures are not overlooked, but explained within a thesis of his upbringing and circumstances. The author's approach suffers from a somewhat one dimensional understanding of human nature, but nevertheless is engaging and historically informative.

Overall, *Shadow King* is very worthy of the time to read it. Johnson brings a new context to the life of Henry VI which is worthwhile, if only to challenge old assumptions or contemporary ones for that matter... I highly recommend this book for readers interested in mediaeval history, the Monarchy, and the Wars of the Roses. (7 out of 10)*. [* This is how many Bonio treats the author deserves]

Aquinas answers modern questions



Whether one sins by forgetting another's birthday or anniversary, and what ought to be done thereafter.

Objection 1. It would seem that forgetting another's birthday or anniversary is not blameworthy. For memory is a power subject to weakness and limitation. But no man is morally at fault for that which exceeds his natural capacity. Therefore forgetfulness in such matters is without fault.

On the contrary, It is written (Rom. 12:15): "Rejoice with those who rejoice." Both birthdays and anniversaries are occasions of joy and affection among friends and family. Therefore neglecting them may signify a defect in attentiveness toward one's neighbour.

I answer that, To remember occasions significant to another pertains not chiefly to memory itself, but to the virtue of charity, whereby one attends lovingly to the good and joy of one's neighbour. Hence, while simple forgetfulness arising from human frailty is not ordinarily sinful, negligence in cultivating attentiveness toward others may reveal a deficiency in affection or consideration.

Accordingly, if one forgets another's birthday or anniversary, one ought first to acknowledge the omission humbly and without excuses. For humility preserves peace better than excessive self-justification. Secondly, one should seek to repair the oversight through a sincere expression of goodwill, whether by apology, kind words, or some fitting gesture of affection. In this way charity heals what forgetfulness has wounded.

Therefore, the proper response is neither despair nor indifference, but humble acknowledgment joined with renewed charity. The objection is answered in the response.

A Brief History of the Oratory

In 1533, St. Philip Neri arrived in Rome where he began an informal lay apostolate, reaching out to the city's youth and the common people. To keep his followers out of trouble in the afternoons, Philip organized informal meetings in his small room (an "oratory") at the church of San Girolamo della Carità. These gatherings featured edifying conversation, spiritual reading, and pilgrimages to hospitals and churches. By 1558, the group had grown so large that they built a larger meeting space above the church. These meetings became formally known as the "Exercises of the Oratory," and their musical presentations of scripture gave birth to the modern musical genre known as the oratorio. As the community expanded, Philip agreed to be ordained, and in 1575, Pope Gregory XIII officially recognized the Congregation of the Oratory. The Pope granted them the church of Santa Maria in Vallicella (also known as the Chiesa Nuova) From Rome, the Oratorian way of life spread throughout Italy, Spain, Poland, and Portugal. However, the congregation faced severe setbacks during the Napoleonic era in the early 19th century which led to the closure or seizure of several historical houses. In the mid-19th century, the Oratory was brought to England by the prominent convert St. John Henry Newman. After spending time in Rome studying the Oratorian way of life, Newman founded the English Oratory in Birmingham in 1848. Shortly after, in 1849, Father Frederick William Faber founded the London Oratory (often called the Brompton Oratory). These foundations played a significant role in the revival of Catholicism in Britain. Today, the Congregation of the Oratory continues to thrive globally with newer houses in Jamaica, South Africa, Canada, and Australia.

Oratorian Vocation Discernment Day

30th May 2026

Men 18-35 are invited to spend the day at the Cardiff Oratory of St. Philip Neri.

Schedule:

- 8am Mass
- 8:45 Breakfast
- 10:00 Talk "The Oratorian Vocation"
- 11:00 Coffee
- 11:30 Tour of Reliquary & church
- 12:30 Sea wall Walk
- 15:00 Afternoon Tea/Talk
- 16:00 Chant Practice
- 16:30 Vespers
- 17:00 Vigil Mass
- 18:00 Supper
- 19:00 Parish Quiz Night

Oratory House, Cameron Street,
CF24 2NX

To register email
frillytd@cardifforatory.co.uk



**St. Philip's day
2026**

The Fathers and Brothers of the Cardiff Oratory invite you to join us in the celebrations of St. Philip's day 26th May. Sung Mass will be offered at 7pm followed by a Dolce in the Parish Hall.

*"Nulla dies sine linea:
Do not let a day pass without doing
some good during it."
St. Philip Neri*

St. Philip and Pentecost

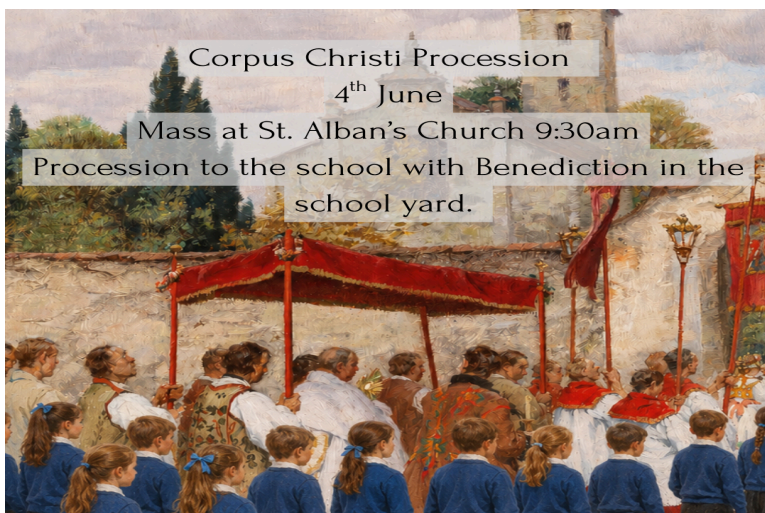
On the vigil of Pentecost in 1544, Philip Neri was

praying in the Catacombs of St Sebastian in Rome when he experienced a profound mystical grace. He saw what appeared to be a globe or ball of fire enter through his mouth and descend into his heart. Immediately he was filled with an overwhelming love of God and extraordinary spiritual fervour. Afterwards, his heart physically enlarged, even causing two of his ribs to arch outward, something later confirmed after his death. From that day onward, St Philip was often seized with intense spiritual ecstasies and burning charity. The event became a symbol of the fire of the Holy Ghost inflaming the soul with divine love.



The annual men's pilgrimage to the ancient Shrine of Our Lady of Penrhys in the Rhondda will take place on the 13th June. The importance of the Shrine dates back to the Fifteenth Century, when Penrhys was considered one of the holiest places in Wales. Pilgrims came to worship at the shrine of Our Lady with prayers of petition and thanksgiving. The shrine had a miraculous statue of Christ and His mother. According to tradition, the statue had appeared in an oak tree and a team of oxen had been unable to drag it from the site. So, a chapel was built there, and a hostel for the pilgrims. The land belonged to the monks of Llantarnam. It was they who provided hospitality for pilgrims and maintained roads and bridges to the shrine. They also looked after the chapel and the holy well. At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries during the Protestant Reformation, Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, wrote to Thomas Cromwell suggesting the destruction of five of the most renowned shrines of Our Lady, including Penrhys. The image was sent to Cromwell's own house in Chelsea on September 14th, 1538. There it was burned publicly together with the statues of Ipswich, Aberteifi, and other images on September 26th, 1538.

Therefore, the Parish Men's group will retrace the steps that many pilgrims have taken before. The walk to Penrhys is 22 miles from St. Alban's, however the various devotions and the singing of hymns make the journey seem to pass remarkably quickly. The route taken will see the men walk along the Taff Trail until Pontypridd, where they follow the Rhondda river to Porth for the final stretch up the hill to Penrhys. This will be the fifth annual pilgrimage to the Shrine at Penrhys, each year the group has grown in number and have had men joined from across the Archdiocese and from across the border. Please email Fr Illtyd if you wish to join this year's pilgrimage.



Corpus Christi Procession

4th June

Mass at St. Alban's Church 9:30am

Procession to the school with Benediction in the school yard.



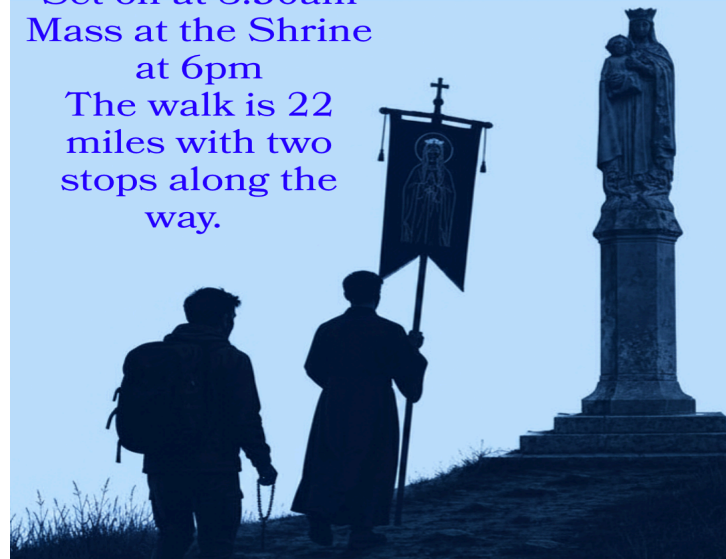
**The Cardiff
Oratory**

**5th Annual Men's
Walking
Pilgrimage to the
shrine of
Our Lady of
Penrhys**

**Breakfast at 8am
Set off at 8:30am
Mass at the Shrine
at 6pm**

13th June

**The walk is 22
miles with two
stops along the
way.**



**To register email
frillytd@cardifforatory**



Vigil Lamps for Pentecost

- **Blessed Sacrament: Canon Jason Jones, RIP**
- **Sacred Heart: Veronica Williams, RIP**
- **Divine Mercy Chapel: Glowacki & Szczech Families**
- **The Lady Chapel: Cyril & Bridget George, RIP**
- **Chantry of Our Lady: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP**
- **Our Lady of Pity: Tony Mead,**
- **St Joseph: Children of St. Alban's School**
- **Our Lady of Walsingham: David Woolf & the Order of St. Lazarus**



School News



On the 20th May, we held a joyful Marian procession from the church to the school in honour of Our Lady during the month of May. Pupils and parishioners walked together in prayer and song, giving public witness to their love for the Blessed Virgin Mary. The children reverently sang Marian hymns throughout the procession, filling the streets with joyful devotion. Upon arriving at the school, the children crowned the statue of Our Lady with flowers as an act of love and honour to the Mother of God. There was also a prayer read by one of the children which they wrote themselves. Thankfully the weather held off and the sun shone throughout the procession. Hopefully this will be the same for Corpus Christi on the 4th of June.

This week also had world numeracy day. The various classes looked at the way that mathematics helps us.

Year 2/3 designed their own Maths t-shirts, explored outdoors on a Maths Hunt and rounded off the day with board games full of counting and fun. Year 3/4 we celebrated National Numeracy Day by sharing their feelings about maths, exploring how numeracy is used in everyday life and jobs and creating positive bunting, reminding us that effort goes a long way. Year 4/5 made the most of the day by mastering the multiplication square to recognise patterns in numbers. It was a great success as many of the children's skills improved.

