



THE ARCHANGEL

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No.75

July 2024

The Precious Blood

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like the Sacred Heart, the Church offers for our adoration a corporeal element of our Lord's sacred humanity, to which His divinity is united. In the same manner that we adore Jesus Christ, true God, true man, we adore His Most Sacred Heart. Likewise, we worship and venerate His Most Precious Blood.

The Precious Blood, however, is no mere symbol or token. It is the chosen instrument of our redemption. It is that which effects our salvation.

Our Lord could have redeemed us by a simple act of His human will. A single prayer would have been enough to redeem all the sins of mankind. All the malice and evil amassed from the beginning to the end of the world weighs nothing in comparison to the beauty, goodness and rectitude of a simple act of love from Our Lord. For it is the act of a man who is God, infinitely good, infinitely lovable. His actions are of infinite value.

And yet, God did not choose to redeem us with a sigh or a prayer.

The divine ordinance is announced by St Paul in his epistle to the Hebrews: without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sins. (Heb. 9:22) Forgiveness of sin demands blood. Blood must be shed and must flow in abundance. The Jewish religion was a veritable haemorrhage of blood thanks to the daily sacrifices of unblemished sheep and other animals.

We may ask: is this not a primitive and barbaric view of religion? Does God need so much blood to satiate His justice and forgive us?

God's divine ordinance does not stem from His morbid thirst for vengeance and destruction. Rather, the divine ordinance is the result of our own anthropological makeup. Jewish ritual, which foreshadowed the reality of Christ's sacrifice, was shaped in relation to man and designed to express three truths in particular:

1.) **Sin requires the death of the sinner**, and this death is symbolised by the shedding of blood. Sin is a disease that eats away and devours our soul and body. The entire sinner must be purged of his sin. This purging, or cleansing, is accomplished by the shedding of blood.

As sinners, we have all forfeited our right to life. We are all guilty and condemned. Will God take back our lives that we have used so ill? On the contrary, God, in His mercy, chooses to take upon Himself the death we have merited. He allowed Himself to be put to death, offering Himself in sacrificial reparation for our sins. Throughout the Old Testament, the Jewish religion symbolically applied our death sentence to animals, offering them as sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins. Now that our death sentence has been carried out in Christ, there is no more need for bloody sacrifices.

2.) **Sin is a very serious outrage to God's sovereign majesty.** God chooses, therefore, to illustrate the gravity of sin by accepting its cancellation only at the expense of pain, blood and death. Mortal sin does to the soul what the Jewish priest did to the sacrificial victim : it disembowels, tortures and kills the soul.

3.) Only the violence of bloodshed is capable of expressing God's infinite love for us. Had our Lord simply prayed on our behalf, or forgiven us outright, we would never have understood the greatness of His love for us and how far He is prepared to go to save us. If our salvation required His blood, Christ was happy to give it to us.

No honest man can say that the Christian religion is ruled by a cruel God who requires sacrifice, blood and death to be appeased. It is not the God of Christians who is cruel but mankind. In our thirst for independence from God we have brought upon ourselves the sentence of death. Our loving Father in heaven passed the sentence on to His only begotten Son, who happily and painfully accepted to shed His blood for the redemption of many.

Fr John Brucciani, Prior

**Liturgical Calendar - July 2024
Confessions before Saturday and Sunday
Masses & during 1st Friday Holy Hour.**

**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**

DUE TO PRIEST SHORTAGE AND HOLIDAYS

From Sunday 14th July Masses to Sunday 17th August, there will be a

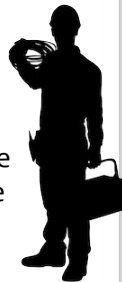
SINGLE MASS AT 8AM ONLY.

This allows a single priest to officiate both in Burghclere and Woking when the need arises.

A tremendous THANK YOU to all those who helped out on the « Catholic Bros » campus work day. It was a day of feverish and productive activity.

Jobs remaining:

- Laying a path through the Highgr. parking entrance and a small, paved recreational space for primary school.
- Fixing concrete fence posts between school and Highgr.
- Winter wood
- Painting, decorating
- Plumbing a new toilet (primary bathroom)
- Gardening and general maintenance.



Another work day will be organised., but please feel free to volunteer your time for God and the church.

A tremendous THANK YOU to all those who organised and helped at the Summer Fair. It was a great success and raised **£3838** in aid of the school.

Funds raised will help pay for the urgently needed new counter tops in the science lab. The current surfaces were purchased second hand in 1992. They are in severe disrepair, due to chemicals and 30+ years of wear and tear.

1	Precious Blood of Our Lord	7:15 / 19:00
2	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7:15
3	St. Irenæus, Bishop & Martyr	7:15
4	Feria	7:15
5	St. Anthony Zaccaria, Cf. - 1st Fri. - HH 6pm	7:15 / 19:00
6	St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr 1st Sat.	7:30 / 12:00
7	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	7:30, 9:00
	<i>2nd Collection for District seminarians</i>	18:00 Benediction
8	St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Queen & Widow	7:30
9	Feria	7:30
10	The 7 Holy Brothers, Martyrs	7:30
11	Feria	7:30
12	St. John Gualbert, Abbot	7:30
13	Saturday of Our Lady (Canbury Pilg.)	12:00 only
14	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 only
		18:00 Benediction
15	St. Henry the Emperor, Confessor	7:30
16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	7:30
17	St. Alexius, Confessor	7:30
18	St. Camillus de Lellis, Confessor	7:30
19	St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor	7:30
20	St. Jerome Emiliani, Confessor	7:30 / 12:00
21	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 only
		18:00 Benediction
22	St. Mary Magdalene, Penitent	7:30
23	St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr	7:30
24	Feria	7:30
25	St. James the Greater	7:30
26	St. Anne, Mother of the BVM	7:30
27	Saturday of Our Lady	12:00 only
28	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 only
		18:00 Benediction
29	St. Martha, Virgin	7:30
30	Feria	7:30
31	St. Ignatius Loyola, Confessor	7:30

INCREASE YOUR DONATIONS BY 25%

- USE THE YELLOW ENVELOPES
- MAKE ANNUAL ONLINE [GIFT AID DECLARATION](#)



The **ceilidh raffle for vestments** raised **£550!** The ceilidh raised a further **£540.**
THANK YOU!

With other donations added, the vestment fund currently stands at: **£2434**

Target: £3700

(Chasuble, dalmatics, humeral veil)

Young Roman Catholics



Bristol Conference Weekend
16-18 August 2023