

The Oratory of St Philip

MORNING PRAYER

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

On Friday, many of you are coming to the Oratory Church for the Patronal Festival in honour of St Philip Neri, founder of the Oratory and our school's patron.

There are Oratories of St Philip Neri all over the world, and in England, in addition to the London Oratory, there are Oratories in Birmingham and Oxford, with another four communities of priests hoping to become Oratories in Manchester, York Cardiff and Bournemouth.

All of them have something in common: The centre of any Oratory isn't its Church, or its schools, or its other pastoral work, but its home.

When you line up to go into the Oratory Church on Friday, notice the big house joined to the Church and set back from the road in a courtyard.

That's the Oratory House, where the community of priests live. Each one has his own bedroom/study.

At the moment there are thirteen priests and student priests in the community, with the age range from 26 to 85; all of them praying together and sharing their lives together under the inspiration of St Philip, their patron.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for the priests of the Oratory, that they learn to become good examples of St Philip their founder.

Lord, hear us...

St Philip: Pray for us,

House Saint: Pray for us.

In the name....

The London Oratory

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

The Oratorians are unusual, because they stay in the community that they join for the rest of their lives.

The reason for this was that St Philip wanted his priests to have to learn to live together properly, like in any family, and learn to be charitable towards each other, and not try and escape from each other.

Each member of the Community has a different job to do in the house, and different jobs to do in their pastoral work outside the house, but always, the Community comes first.

When the Oratorians were first sent to London by Saint John Henry Newman, the only place they could find for a home was in a building which had a noisy pub on the ground floor.

In that neighbourhood, they started the first London Catholic schools for destitute children. The work was important, but the place wasn't big enough, so they decided to build a more suitable house. That's why they came to Brompton, where in those days the land was cheap and they could build a bigger place with a garden and a bit of privacy.

The house came first, then the schools followed, and then the church was built a long time afterwards.

For Oratorians, that's the order of priority.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for the work of the Oratory Fathers, especially for our school, that we might be inspired by the example of St Philip our Patron.

Lord, hear us....

St Philip: Pray for us, *House Saint*: Pray for us.

In the name....

The Oratory House

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Although 'home' comes first for the Oratorians, the Oratory House is designed in an unusual way. On the ground floor, all the six rooms of the house facing the road are a series of sitting-rooms, so that anyone who comes to the front door can easily be made welcome to talk to the Fathers, whether to learn about the Faith, or get spiritual advice, or just to come and talk about their problems. So the Oratory House is a home that opens its front door to the world, while at the same time, behind those rooms, it gives privacy and security to the Fathers, when they need to escape from the world and be at peace with God and with each other. That's how St Philip lived his life; both *in* the world (bringing Christ to the world in his work), and *away* from the world (bringing the world to Christ in his prayers).

PRAYERS

Let us pray that some members of our school might be inspired to find their vocations as Oratorians, and live as sons of St Philip.

Lord, hear us....

St Philip: Pray for us,
House Saint: Pray for us.
In the name....

The Inspiration of St Philip

Thursday

*Rosary intention for the work of the Oratory Fathers,
and for vocations to the Oratory*

THE THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY: THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE APOSTLES

Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit.

1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day...

10x Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of they womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...

1x Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was...In the name ...

Friday

FRIDAY PRAYER

PATRONAL FESTIVAL