

## THE PAPAL CANONIZATIONS

**T**here has been much speculation about the reasons behind the canonisation of two recent Popes, John XXIII and John Paul II. For some, it is the bringing together of two factions, the liberal and the conservative wings, in an attempt to unite the Church. As thoughtful commentators point out, such labels do not do justice to complex characters: Pope John XXIII, sometimes held up as a hero of the liberal Church, was imbued with a deeply traditional Italian piety, while Pope John Paul II, seen as a firm traditionalist, was radical in opposition to the Death Penalty and the War in Iraq.

Yet more important than any perceived politics behind the joint canonization is the simple lesson that today's ceremony shows that there are different ways to holiness. Both Popes were remarkably different, they followed diverse paths of holiness. John XXIII, in his *Journal of a Soul*, specifically says that he should not seek holiness after some particular model, but "according to the requirements of my own nature, my own character and the different conditions of my life".

Then, it has been noted, this canonization takes us back to the earliest method of declaring saints - by popular acclaim. The enduring cult of John XXIII (you don't have to visit many bars or take many taxis in Italy before you see his image), the chants of *Subito Santo!* at the funeral of John Paul II, remind us that the process of recognizing saints in the Church begins in the devotion of ordinary faithful.

Finally, it tells us a good deal about holiness. There are those who have criticised some of the actions of both Popes, saying (for example) that the calling of Vatican II by John XXIII weakened the Church, or that some of the policies of Pope John Paul II undermined the spirit of the Council. Canonization is not a declaration that everything that they did was perfect. It is not an assumption that none of their policies was mistaken. Saints are those who, despite their human weakness and their mistakes, strive to live a life of holiness. Any frailty in these great Pontiffs, far from detracting from their holiness, actually increases it, as it demonstrates their heroic determination to follow Christ.

*Fr Mark*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27 April  
Second Sunday of Easter

### CALENDAR

Sunday 27		<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>No Extraordinary Form today</i> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 28	12.30	Mass: <b>ST GEORGE</b> ( <i>Transferred</i> )
Tuesday 29	1.05	Mass: <b>ST CATHERINE OF SIENA</b>
Wednesday 30	12.30 1.05	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass
Thursday 1 May	1.05	Mass: St Joseph the Worker
Friday 2	1.05 7.30	Mass: St Athanasius Mass
Saturday 3	1.05 4.30 6.00	Mass: <b>Sts PHILIP &amp; JAMES, APOSTLES</b> Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 4		<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8.00 Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass

### **CAKE SALE**

There will be a sale of cakes after all Masses this weekend for the LIFE group.

### **MAGDALENE COLLEGE MASS**

On Tuesday 29 April at 6.00pm. Please contact Max Nussbaumer if you wish to attend on mn406

### **ECUMENICAL LUNCH**

There will be a free lunch for members of Fisher House and ecumenical friends next Sunday, after 11.00 Mass, in the Fisher Room. If you wish to come (and bring someone), please contact Michael Loy on mpal2

### **SAINTS AND SCONES**

There will be no meeting this week. S&S resumes in its full calorific glory next Sunday, 4 May.

### **FRIDAY 7.30pm MASS**

We are continuing with these popular Masses, in a more contemporary style. If you are a musician, and would like to help with music, please contact Stephen Bick on bickstephen@gmail.com

### **ROSARY LEGION OF MARY**

The Rosary is prayed in the Chapel on Saturdays at 5.30pm, Sundays after the 11am Mass, and Tuesdays and Thursdays after 1.05pm Mass.

### **FISHER MASS**

The annual Mass in honour of our Patron takes place on Monday 5 May at 12.00 noon in Great St Mary's. The preacher will be Dom Aidan Bellenger, Abbot of Downside. Mass is followed by a buffet lunch at Fisher House, to which all are welcome.

### **FISHER LECTURE**

The lecture this year will be given on 6 May at 5.30pm by the celebrated biographer of Pope Francis, Paul Vallely, on *Jorge Mario Bergoglio - the complex character behind the simple humility of Pope Francis*. All are welcome.

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

There will be a night to test your general knowledge (it *really* counts as revision) on Friday 9 May in the Fisher Room at 8.30. All welcome.

### **CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS**

Fr Mark will lead a discussion at 1.15 on Monday in the Fisher Room, on *The Book of the Apocalypse*.

### **CRUMBS ON FRIDAY**

The 3 minute explanation of things we do, but don't know why, resumes after the 7.30 Friday Mass next week.

### **FANCY A PAPAL MAPLE? TRY A LAPSED CATHOLIC?**

On Friday evenings this term, the Bar staff will be moving into mixology, as they present some of the cocktails from the forthcoming Catholic cocktail book. Bar open from 8.30, all welcome.

### **FISHER HOUSE SVP GROUP**

We go out every night to feed the homeless, and help out at the Cambridge food bank, as well as visiting the elderly, and helping those on the margins in our city. Meetings every Thursday evening. Please contact Sarah Culkin on slcculkin@gmail.com

### **COMMUNION AND LIBERATION**

Meets every Thursday at 9.00pm in the Music Room at OLEM. See the poster outside the chapel, or contact Mark Young (my321).

### **GRADUATE SOCIETY**

There will be a Graduate Pub lunch after 11.00 Mass on Sunday 11 May.

### **THE FISHER DINNER**

Remember to sign up for the major social event in the Cambridge Catholic Calendar, on 12 June. Details on the noticeboard.

### **SENIOR MEMBERS' DISCUSSION GROUP**

A group for senior members, inspired by Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*, meets every Tuesday at 5.30 in the dining room at Fisher House. All senior members are welcome.

### **CARDINAL CORMAC MURPHY-O'CONNOR**

Cardinal Cormac will be at Fisher House on Sunday 18 May, to celebrate Mass and to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you wish to be confirmed, please see one of the Chaplains to arrange preparation.

### **THE HEART IN PILGRIMAGE**

There will be a buffet lunch on Sunday 18 May, to which all are welcome. During lunch, Cardinal Cormac will officially launch Professor Eamon Duffy's book: *The Heart in Pilgrimage*.

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

£357.60

### **GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR HOLY PLACES**

£144.50

*Thank you!*