

TOO TIRED TO PRAY?

By Sr Ann

At this stage in term, many of us are feeling a little weary – to say the least. Revision, exams, and the attendant late nights and/or early mornings all take their toll, and we may be feeling more than usually in need of a helping hand to get us through the day. And we tell ourselves, piously enough, that we ought to pray more, that God who is the source of the peace that the world cannot give will calm our frazzled nerves and give us new energy for the tasks ahead. But there is a problem. We try to pray in our distracted state, and we hit a brick wall: just because we are so run down and so worked up, we can't settle to prayer as we'd like to, and end up feeling guilty and dissatisfied, worrying that here is one more task on our to-do list we've failed to complete. Is there anything we can do to break this most vicious of vicious circles? A couple of things spring to mind.

First, if you've not yet done so, do consider coming to Lauds, celebrated every morning at 8am in our chapel, and followed, of course, in true Fisher House style, by breakfast. It's a wonderful way to start the day: you don't even have to think of what words to use to talk to God, because these are provided for you in the psalms of Morning Prayer and that can be a real bonus when you are so tired you can barely think. And there is a quiet power in the experience of praying aloud in unison, a beautiful sense of being upheld and supported by each other, especially when we remember that this is the prayer of the whole Church, that when we gather for Morning Prayer in Cambridge, we do so in solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Secondly, it can be useful to remember - that with prayer, less is often more. If all that we can do at times of stress and strain is to mutter – or even scream - “Lord help me”, then that is the best kind of prayer for us right now. God is not some celestial examiner, about to mark us harshly for the lack of articulacy and sophistication with which we address him. This week, let's reflect on the wonderful fact that in this area of our life, at least, there are no targets to be achieved, no skills to demonstrate, and thank God for it.



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 25 May
Sixth Sunday of Easter

CALENDAR

Sunday 25		SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	8.00	Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass	
Monday 26	12.30	Mass	St Philip Neri
Tuesday 27	1.05	Mass	St Augustine of Canterbury
Wednesday 28	12.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	1.05	Mass	
Thursday 29	1.05	Mass	
Friday 30	1.05	Mass	
	7.30	Mass	
Saturday 31	1.05	Mass	
	4.30	Confessions	
	6.00	Vigil Mass of The Ascension	
Sunday 1 June		THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	
	8.00	Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass	

FRIDAY 7.30pm MASS

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

HOLY ROSARY

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.

ROSARY-MAKING FOR CHARITY

The Rosary Legion is making Rosaries (from beads, cord string, and crucifixes) to send to third-world missions. Contact FisherHouse-Rosary@gmail.com

MASS AT CORPUS CHRISTI

Mass will be celebrated in the College on Tuesday 10 June at 6.00pm

FR KEVIN

is in the Holy Land until 12 June, helping to deliver a course at Tan-tur Biblical Institute.

9.00 LATIN MASS CHOIR

If you are interested in leading the Schola Cantorum next year, please see one of the chaplains.

FR MARK

is preaching at Churchill tonight, and at Queens' next Sunday.

PILGRIMAGE TO STONE

Saturday 31 May, a minibus will be leaving Cambridge at 7.30am to head off into the Staffordshire countryside, for a pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of Stone. Stone is mother house of the English Dominican sisters, and an important site in English Catholic history. It is also where Sister Ann disappears off to every so often! Please see Sr Ann if you would like to be a part of this pilgrimage.

CAFOD

To celebrate the kick off of the World Cup, and to highlight some of the social issues facing Brazil, the CAFOD group will host a coffee morning on Sunday 8 June featuring Brazilian delicacies and information about the work of CAFOD in Brazil.

FOR THE DIARY:

LEAVERS' MASS & BBQ

This takes place at Fisher House on Sunday 15 June.

FISHER HOUSE GARDEN PARTY

Dust off those boaters and croquet sticks. The Garden party will be held at the Margaret Beaufort Institute, Grange Road, on 18 June.

MORNING PRAYER

This week, we invite you to join us for Morning Prayer at 8.00am in the chapel, followed by breakfast. You will be finished before 9.00am. It is a great way to start the day, in this exam season.

LIBRARY STOCK-TAKING

We need a volunteer to help the librarian on 11 & 13 June to check the library stock. It is routine work, but important for the end of the year. There will be payment available. Please see Fr Mark.

CATHOLIC COCKTAILS

There has been interest from beyond the hallowed walls of Fisher House—if you have a recipe, drop it in to Fr Mark.

FISHER HOUSE SVP GROUP

Feeding the homeless and hungry, visiting the elderly, and helping those on the margins in our city. Meetings every Thursday evening. Please contact Sarah Culkin on slcculkin@gmail.com

FINANCES

Never a pleasant thing to talk about; we shall nevertheless do so at Masses on Sunday 8 June. This will be an opportunity to hear how Fisher House is weathering the financial storms!

MONKS AT MAGDALENE

On Sunday 25th May at 6.30 pm monks from Douai Abbey led by Abbot Geoffrey Scott will sing solemn Monastic Vespers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter in Magdalene College Chapel, accompanied by an address by Professor Eamon Duffy. Magdalene was originally a Benedictine foundation, and in recent years the College has sought to honour its origins by inviting monks of various English Benedictine houses to celebrate this most ancient of monastic offices in Magdalene's fifteenth century chapel. All are welcome.

SAINTS AND SCONES

Brother Richard OP will be speaking to S&S about Jacques and Raisa Maritain, all while you enjoy a delicious home-made real Devon cream tea!

EXTRAORDINARY FORM MASS

The Mass for the Feast of the Ascension will be a High Mass.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£572.40

Our accountant tells us that this is an all-time record. Thank you!