

HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE!

By Sr Ann

An elderly sister told me recently of a pupil in a convent school who, when asked to list the major landmarks on the Church's calendar got on quite well until he reached today's feast, which he described as "Essential Day". We, on the other hand might find the Ascension as far from essential, indeed as somewhat peripheral and problematic. We can't hope to understand all the implications of Easter, but we can see the point of celebrating Jesus rising from the dead. But why do we need a further feast commemorating his return to heaven, and why is his departure from us a cause for gladness rather than lamentation?

The clue, I think, might be to see the Ascension precisely as not about his distance from us, but about our nearness to him. Here are some words of St Augustine that might help:

"Christ is now raised above the heavens, but he still experiences whatever sufferings we his members feel. He showed that this is true when he called out from heaven 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'"

Christ while in heaven is also with us, and we, while on earth, are also with him. He did not leave heaven when he came down to us from heaven, and he did not leave us when he ascended to heaven again. This is because of the unity between us and himself, for he is our head and we are his body".

This means that, rightly understood, the Ascension is not about absence but about presence, not about bereavement but about joy, joy that begins here and will be fulfilled in heaven. As the Collect for the feast puts it,

*you have raised us up with him:
where he, the head has preceded us in glory,
there we, the body, are called in hope.*

Perhaps there is something essential about it after all. Happy feast!



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 1 June

The Ascension of the Lord

CALENDAR

Sunday 1		THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
	8.00	Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass
Monday 2	12.30	Mass <i>Sts Marcellinus and Peter</i>
Tuesday 3	1.05	Mass <i>St Charles Lwanga & companions</i>
Wednesday 4	12.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	1.05	Mass
Thursday 5	1.05	Mass <i>St Boniface</i>
Friday 6	1.05	Mass <i>St Norbert</i>
	7.30	Mass
Saturday 7	1.05	Mass
	4.30	Confessions
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Pentecost
Sunday 8		PENTECOST SUNDAY
	8.00	Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass

MORNING PRAYER

We continue this week to pray the Office of Morning Prayer (Lauds) 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.

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.

MASS AT CORPUS CHRISTI

Mass will be celebrated in Corpus Christi 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.

FR MARK

is preaching at Queens' College this evening.

FISHER HOUSE SVP GROUP

The Saint Vincent de Paul group works throughout term time; feeding the homeless and hungry, visiting the elderly, and helping those on the margins in our city. Meetings are held every Thursday evening. Please contact Sarah Culkin on slcculkin@gmail.com

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 next Sunday after Masses, featuring Brazilian delicacies and information about the work of CAFOD in Brazil.

LEAVERS' MASS AND BBQ

Hard as it is to believe, the leavers' Mass is almost upon us. The tear-filled occasion will be Sunday 15 June, 11.00am, followed by a lingering Barbeque on the Terrace Garden. Free for leavers; for all others a minimal cost.

FISHER HOUSE GARDEN PARTY

Dust off those boaters and practice your croquet swing! The Fisher House Garden Party will be held at the Margaret Beaufort Institute, Grange Road, on 18 June. The Pimms begins to flow at 2.00pm. When it stops is up to you ...

CATHOLIC COCKTAILS

Our project has made it to the gossip pages of *The Tablet*. If you have a favourite recipe, drop it in to Fr Mark.

LIBRARY BOOK RECALL

Please return all library books (those you have signed out and those that you may inadvertently have neglected to sign out ...) by Monday 9 June. The painstaking task of stocktaking will take place that week. Please assist the librarian by adhering to this deadline. If you have left any belongings in the library, please remove them at this time.

SAINTS AND SCONES

At 4.30pm, today, in Sr Ann's room, a delicious home-made real Devon cream tea will be served while you learn about a surprise saint!

FINANCES

Never a pleasant thing to talk about; we shall nevertheless do so briefly at Masses next Sunday. It is important that you hear how Fisher House is weathering the financial storms, and that we all take seriously our responsibility to support financially the work of the Chaplaincy.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check the hangers near the entrance to Fisher House - they boast a fine selection of scarves, sweaters and hats. These will all be removed at the end of term.

NEW ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

It is with great joy that we can announce that Fr Gregory Morgan will be moving to Fisher House later this month, to take over as assistant chaplain. Fr Greg was ordained for Sydney Diocese in 2011 (and is the youngest priest in that diocese - nay, in all of Australia!), and having completed his MPhil in philosophical theology at St Edmund's, will commence his PhD studies next year. We wish Fr Greg a heartfelt '*G'day*', and hope that he will enjoy his time at Fisher House. There will be an opportunity to meet Fr Greg at the leavers' barbeque.

To add to our joy, Fr Kevin will remain with us until Christmas as he prepares to submit his PhD, so you will be tripping over chaplains at Michaelmas.

DOMINIC McGRATTAN

Please keep Dominic, our deacon, in your prayers as he prepares for ordination to the priesthood on 29 June in the diocese of Down and Connor.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£429.94

Thank you!