

“BE BRAVE — GO TO CONFESSION!”

by Fr Mark

Confession is on my mind this week; John Cornwell has a challenging new book out on the subject, and Pope Francis spoke about it before his weekly audience last Wednesday. As usual, the Holy Father’s words are accessible and even informal, but the message is profound.

Firstly, he reminds us that Confession is a sacrament grounded in the Paschal mystery; it derives directly from the mandate of the risen Lord to the disciples in the Upper Room: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” So Confession is not a law, an exam, or a punishment—it is a help for us to share in the life of Jesus, risen from the dead. It makes us whole.

In the second place, Pope Francis is clear why we need to go to a priest to confess. Sin is never just a private matter. It affects the community, the Church—if only that in sinning I become more inward-turning, more self-ish: “That is why it is necessary to ask forgiveness of your brothers and sisters, and the Church, in the person of the priest”.

Thirdly, Confession is difficult. Nobody thinks it is easy. The Pope recognises that it is hard to admit our faults (he mentions how difficult it can be to sit in the confessional queue) but this, he says, encourages our humility, and helps us realise that we cannot improve on our own.

Remarkably, Pope Francis is not afraid to commend the psychological benefits of Confession: “From a human point of view, in order to unburden yourself, it is good to talk to another person.” You may feel ashamed, but afterward you will feel “free, grand, beautiful, forgiven.” Characteristically he says “Go! The priest will be good! And Jesus is there, and Jesus is even kinder than priests!” Each time we go to confession, says Pope Francis, “God embraces us.”

So, our Holy Father challenges us all, to ask ourselves; when was the last time I went ? And he exhorts us, “Be brave—go to Confession!”

Confessions at Fisher House: 4.30—5.30 Saturday, or on request

Our Lady and the English Martyrs: Tues 5.30pm, Sat 9.00, 10.30, 4.30pm



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 23 February - Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

CALENDAR

Sunday 23	SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	8.00 Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	9.00 Sung Latin Mass
	11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 24	12.30 Mass
Tuesday 25	1.05 Mass
	6.00 Requiem Mass for Mgr Gilbey
Wednesday 26	12.30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	1.05 Mass
Thursday 27	1.05 Mass
Friday 28	1.05 Mass
	7.30 Mass
Saturday 1	1.05 Mass ST DAVID Patron of Wales
March	4.30 Confessions
	6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 2	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	8.00 Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	9.00 Sung Latin Mass
	11.00 Sung English Mass

OXFORD CHAPLAINCY

Next Sunday there will be a free lunch with members of the Oxford Catholic chaplaincy, in the Fisher Room. Please sign up outside the chapel.

VARSITY FOOTBALL

The match against the Oxford chaplaincy takes place on 2 March, with training session on this afternoon at 2.00pm on Jesus Green. Contact Sam Trizuljak on st571.

VON HÜGEL INSTITUTE LECTURE

Friday 28 February, 5.00pm Mill Lane Lecture Room, Mary McAleese will speak on *Governing the Church: The Imperative of Collegiality*. All welcome.

FRIDAY 7.30pm MASS

If you are a musician, and would like to participate in a more contemporary style of Mass please contact John Darlison on jd600.

PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIPS 2014—2015

Organised by the Catholic Bishops' Conference, there are various in Parliament, the Bishops' Conference, and Archbishop's House. You can apply online—please see outside the chapel for details.

PREACHER NEXT WEEKEND

Fr John Hemer, Professor of Scripture at Allen Hall seminary, will preach at Masses next weekend.

RETREAT TO WORTH

The traditional retreat to Worth takes place 21—23 March, cost £60 unwaged, £100 waged. There is a sign-up list outside the chapel. Contact Anna Webb (aew64).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

An evening of poetry, on the theme of the Stations, on Sunday 9 March. If you would like to contribute, contact Michael Loy on mpal2.

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

Fr Mark will lead a discussion at 1.15 on Monday in the Fisher Room, on *The Roman Curia*.

CRUMBS ON FRIDAY

After the 7.30pm Mass, a 4-minute explanation of things we do, but don't know why we do them. This week: Sr Kevin on *What is a religious order?*

APOLOGETICS GROUP

The group meets every Saturday at 7.00pm in the Library. This term we will be studying Chesterton's *Orthodoxy*. All welcome. Contact Sam Trizuljak (st571)

PAX CHRISTI CAFOD TALK

Pax Christi is an international Catholic peace organization. Matt Jeziorski from Pax Christi will speak in the Fisher Room on Thursday 27 February at 7.30pm.

SAINTS AND SCONES

There will be no meeting today as St Ann will be in Oxford, being martyred for the faith, as she preaches at Merton College.

LAPSED CATHOLIC? DULCE DOMINICANA?

Do you want a *General Absolution*? Can you manage a *St Kevin*? Submissions to the Catholic Cocktail book are growing—but please keep them coming. See Fr Mark.

MARY WARD LECTURE

Professor Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland, and Professor Janet Martin Soskice, will discuss *Women in the Church and the Academy*, 11.00am, Saturday 1 March, Law Faculty, West Road.

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 bar evening on Wednesday at 8.00pm.

THE GILBEY REQUIEM

The annual Requiem Mass, for Monsignor Gilbey will be in the chapel on 25 February at 6.00pm.

SENIOR MEMBERS' LENTEN GROUP

Please see the poster for details of a group that will discuss *Evangelii Gaudium* during Lent. Fisher House, 11 March 5.00pm.

POETRY, FORM AND FAITH

On Tuesday at 6.00pm in the Library, Sr Anna Mary OP will lead a weekly discussion on poetry and literature. All welcome.

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 HOUSE CHOIRS

To sing in the 9.00am Latin choir contact Matthew Swanson (mjswanson2@gmail.com); for the English Mass choir at 11.00 contact Dominic Wong (dhtw2).

SHROVE TUESDAY PARTY

Tuesday 4 March, 8.00pm, Fisher Room.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£476.50