

It's that time of the year again, when shorter, darker days and falling leaves driven before the wind leave us in no doubt that summer is definitively over and winter unmistakably on the horizon. As the year moves towards its conclusion, it seems fitting, in keeping with the natural rhythms of the Northern Hemisphere at least, that, in the Church, we keep November as the month of the dead. Throughout November, we remember our loved ones who have gone before us, and those who have no one to pray for them. So it's entirely appropriate that almost the first thing we do liturgically in November is offer Mass specially for the faithful departed, on the feast of All Souls. Almost the first, but not quite. Because, of course, the day before All Souls' Day is All Saints' Day, and, at first sight, that seems a little odd. If November is the month of the dead, then why does it begin with a celebration of those who assuredly do not need our prayers, the saints in heaven?

To answer that question, we have first to ask another one. What is a saint? For many of our contemporaries, maybe sometimes even for us, the first answer that springs to mind is that the saints are people we ought to admire, but who seem too distant, perhaps even too "perfect" to inspire our affection. The expression "a plaster saint" says it all: isn't there maybe just a touch of artificiality about the saints? Are they, as we say, too good to be true, and consequently unable to empathise with our weakness and confusion?

The feast of All Saints is an annual corrective to this way of thinking. It reminds us, first of all, of the sheer dazzling variety of the saints, in all their solid and sometimes frankly eccentric humanity. The crotchety St Jerome, the vivacious St Catherine of Siena, the whimsical St Philip Neri are all certainly masterpieces of God's artistry, but they are definitely not one-dimensional figures from a stained glass window! But at least as importantly, All Saints Day reminds us that the saints are not just those whose names are "in the public domain". We give thanks on November 1<sup>st</sup> for "all the saints who from their labours rest". The canonised ones are just a fraction of that great cloud of witnesses that surround us as we press – or stumble – our way forward to our heavenly homeland. Among the saints whose names are known to God alone will certainly be some whom we have known and loved on earth, and we can be sure that they are praying specially for us, as we are pray particularly for our loved ones among faithful departed. Taken together, the feasts of All Saints and All Souls remind us that every member of the Church is bound together in one great chain of charity that nothing in time or eternity can sever.

*Sr Ann*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27 October - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### CALENDAR

Sunday 27	<b>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 8.00 Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 28	12.15 Mass Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles
Tuesday 29	1.05 Mass Martyrs of Douai College
Wednesday 30	1.05 Mass
Thursday 31	1.05 Mass
Friday 1	8.00 Mass <b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b> 1.05 Mass <i>Holyday of Obligation</i> 6.00 Mass
Saturday 2	1.05 Requiem Mass ALL SOULS' DAY 4.30 Confessions 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 3	<b>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 8.00 Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass

## 1 NOVEMBER - ALL SAINTS

Next Friday is the Feast of All Saints, and is a holyday of obligation, when we should attend Mass. Masses are at 8.00, 1.05 and 6.00.

## 2 NOVEMBER - ALL SOULS

This is the day when we especially commemorate all the faithful departed. The 1.05 Mass will be a Requiem Mass.

## NOVEMBER DEAD LIST

Pages will be available outside the chapel for you to record the names of those you wish to be prayer for in the month of the Holy Souls. They will be prayed for at every Mass.

## REGISTRATION CARDS

If you are new to Fisher House, please do not forget to sign a registration card (available just outside the chapel) and leave it in the box nearby.

## ROSARY LEGION OF MARY

The Rosary is prayed in the Chapel on Saturdays at 5:30pm (before the vigil Mass), Sundays after the 11am Mass, and Tuesdays after the 1:05pm Mass. During Michaelmas Term 2013, we will pray for "the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death".

Contact:

FisherHouseRosary@gmail.com

## CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

Following 12.15 Mass on Monday, Fr Mark will lead a discussion over lunch on the topic:

*Transmitting the story: Scripture and Tradition.* All are welcome.

## SAINTS AND SCONES

With a title like that, how can you resist?! Sr Ann will lead a discussion on saints, over cream tea, on Sunday at 4.30 in her study in Fisher House.

## POETRY, FORM AND FAITH

Every Tuesday, at 6.00pm in the Library, Sr Anna Mary OP and Professor Howard Erskine-Hill will discuss poetry through the eyes of faith. All welcome.

**APOLOGETICS GROUP**, meeting on Saturdays at 7.00pm in the Library, to read and discuss some major works of Catholic apologetics. This term, "*Mere Christianity*" by C.S. Lewis. Contact Sam Trizuljak on st571.

**LUNCH** is available every weekday in term time from 1.00pm in the Fisher Room, price £1.50.

## LIBRARY

Fisher House Library is open for private study whenever Fisher House is open.



## SAINTS ... AND SINNERS

... but which will you be??? Fancy

Dress party in the Fisher Room, next Thursday 31 October, 8.00pm.

Come dressed as your favourite Saint - or indeed Sinner! All are welcome. Prize awarded for best costume!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The SVP seeks to help those in Cambridge on the margins, and those less fortunate than ourselves. The group meets every Thursday at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room. All are welcome. Contact Sarah Culkin (sc741)

## LECTIO DIVINA GROUP

We meet every Friday at 6.00pm in the Chapel to pray with the Sunday Mass readings, followed by refreshments in the Fisher Room. All are welcome. Contact Sr Ann.

**EXPOSITION** of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Wednesdays at 12.30pm before Mass.

## CATHOLIC GRADUATE SOCIETY

Bar Evening, on Wednesday at 8.00pm. All graduates welcome.

## FISHER HOUSE CHOIRS

If you are interested in joining the choirs at Fisher House, please contact Matthew Swanson (mjswanon2@gmail.com) for the Latin Choir, or Dominic Wong for the English Choir (dhtw2).

## FISHER HOUSE CAFOD

The CAFOD group meets regularly to support and encourage action on poverty and injustice. As Catholics, this is something with which we all should be concerned. Contact Imogen Sutton on ics26.

## FISHER HOUSE ON FACEBOOK

Make sure you join the Fisher Society group page - for lots of information and reminders of events. Follow us also on [www.facebook.com/CatholicChaplaincyCambridge](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicChaplaincyCambridge)

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 8 November: debate on Faith Schools with CU Atheist Society.

Sunday 17 November: Fisher House Film Club