

## THE SOULS TO THEE SO DEAR ...

There is a tendency, regrettable but widespread, to describe funerals as ‘a celebration of the life’ of the departed. Celebrating a life is undoubtedly part of the reason we are there, as is the comforting of those who mourn, but the true reason that we, as Catholics, are present at a funeral is to pray for the dead. It goes to the core of our belief that our relationship with the deceased continues for, as the Funeral Rite rather beautifully puts it, “the bonds of love that knit us together in life do not unravel with death”.

The doctrine of Purgatory has come in for a hard time from other Christian traditions, with the condemnation of Article XXII of the Church of England offering scant relief in the beauty of its language from the vehemence of its denunciation: *The Romish doctrine concerning Purgatory ... is a fond thing vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God.*

Yet our notion of Purgatory is simply based upon the reality of sin, and our reluctance to accept with a whole heart the holiness bestowed on us by Christ. We hang back, like reluctant children, clinging to what we know. Faced with the immense glory and beauty of God, we blink, we cast our eyes down. This is captured by Cardinal Newman, and sublimely realized in Elgar’s Oratorio, when the soul of Gerontius finally goes before God. As the music rises to a climax, Elgar has a moment’s silence, the moment when Gerontius gazes upon God, before the great crash that represents their meeting, from which it is Gerontius who cries out “Take me away!” He cannot yet bear the raw love that is God, he needs to be purified of what still clings to him of his earthly desires and selfishness before he can unite himself fully with God. What of that purification? Traditionally we think of fire and pain, but a kinder interpretation is offered by St Catherine of Genoa, who sees Purgatory as the application of God’s love to the soul, burning away the effects of selfishness, and filling the soul with a delightful anticipation of heaven. Much as a child, on the night before Christmas, aches to be at the presents, but must rest to be prepared for the festive joy ahead. There is pain, but it is the pain of a joy not yet achieved, rather than a punishment in itself. Our prayers aid these souls in their ability to cast of their old selfish desires— it is our act of love to hasten them on their way to heaven.

*Fr Mark*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 10 November - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### CALENDAR

Sunday 10		<b>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
		<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>	
	8.00	Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Requiem Mass	
Monday 11	12.15	Mass	St Martin of Tours, Bishop
Tuesday 12	1.05	Mass	St Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
Wednesday 13	1.05	Mass	
Thursday 14	1.05	Mass	
Friday 15	1.05	Mass	St Albert the Great
Saturday 16	1.05	Mass	St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop
	4.30	Confessions	
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 17		<b>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Prisoners’ Sunday)</b>	
	8.00	Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass	

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Remembrance Sunday, when we pray for the dead of the two world wars, and all conflicts since that time. The 11.00 Mass next Sunday will be a Requiem, and will begin with two minutes' silence.

## NOVEMBER DEAD LIST

Pages are 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.

## INTERNATIONAL DINNER

Come to share food from around the world at 7.00pm on 19 November. If you are coming, sign up outside the chapel. If you want to prepare some food, or can help with cooking, contact Hannah Woolley on hw379.

## 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. Contact: FisherHouseRosary@gmail.com

**TEA AND COFFEE** is available after 11.00 Mass in the Fisher Room, next to the Chapel. All are welcome.

## CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

Following 12.15 Mass on Monday, Fr Mark will lead a discussion over lunch on the topic: *Scripture and the Church...?* All are welcome.

## SAINTS AND SCONES

Sr Ann leads a discussion on saints, over cream tea, on Sunday at 4.30 in her study. Call at the door of (old) 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 "*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.

**EXPOSITION** of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesdays at 12.30pm.

## TERM CARDS

College reps who have not yet collected terms cards are asked to take them from the Fisher Room.

## HUG A HOODIE!

The Fisher House hoodie is on sale at £22, S, M, L, XL. A sign-up sheet is be outside the chapel; please leave cash or a cheque with a Fisher Society committee member or a chaplain.

## THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The SVP helps those in Cambridge on the margins and less fortunate than ourselves. Meeting every Thursday at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room. All welcome. Contact Sarah Culkin (sc741)

## MONSIEUR VINCENT

The SVP will show an acclaimed film on the life of St Vincent, on 12 November at 8.00pm.

## 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. Contact Sr Ann on acs92.

## QUEENS' COLLEGE MASS

Thursday 14 November at 6.15pm. If you wish to attend Formal Hall afterwards (cost £10.25) please contact Michael Loy on mpal2@cam.ac.uk

## CATHOLIC GRADUATE SOCIETY

Bar night on Wednesday, 8.00pm



## FISHER HOUSE FILM

**CLUB** will be showing the film beloved of Pope Francis and Rowan Williams: *Babette's Feast*, on Sunday 17 November at 7.30pm in the Library. Popcorn will be provided.



## AMPLEFORTH RETREAT

There will be a retreat at Ampleforth Monastery 8 to 11 December. If you are interested, please contact Sister Ann on acs92.

## CATHOLIC VOICES

A workshop on how to defend the Church without raising your voice will be held in London on 23 November. Full details at catholicvoices.org.uk/event/workshop-young-catholics

## FISHER HOUSE CAFOD

**GROUP** meets regularly to support and encourage action on poverty and injustice. Contact Imogen Sutton on ics26.

## FISHER HOUSE ON FACEBOOK

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)