

ELECTION NIGHT MUSINGS

This time it was not the Portillo moment, but the Ed Balls moment: the rush of jaw-dropping wonder as the electorate demonstrates that sentiment has no place in its considerations, and ousts long-standing politicians. I love General Election night, the momentousness of events, and this year the company of lively students (and a distinguished Professor) enhanced the thrill of the occasion. I was impressed how engaged everyone was; how the raucous chatter was stilled as important announcements were made; how people took care to explain to our non-native members (most of the party, in fact) the many idiosyncrasies of the British parliamentary system; how passionate people were. I lasted until nearly 3.00am, when, mounting the stairs to my bedroom, I glimpsed through a vast window across the street the throng of volunteers counting the Cambridge vote in the Guildhall. I felt a surge of pride in our system which, for all its faults, still commands respect – the notion that we should have a say in who governs us.

As results were announced, we listened to the speeches of successful and defeated candidates. Those most impressive spoke magnanimous words; courtesy for opponents, generosity towards those representing other points of view. Those most forgettable were the angry, or petty, or uncivil speakers. True statesmanship requires respect for the view of opponents, attributing to them the best of motives, even as one disagrees with their opinions.

Magnanimity is a particularly, although not exclusively, Christian value. Centuries ago Thomas à Kempis recommended that the person who seeks to be like Christ should 'always think well and highly of others'. The charge of hypocrisy is a grave one, and one that we should be wary of making, reserved only for those who can see into the heart and mind – like our Lord himself. One of the sadder features of contemporary life, unhappily much on display during the election campaign, is the wielding of spiteful, negative slurs on opponents. There is nothing new in this, of course. But the Christian can do better. Hate the message, by all means, but respect the messenger.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 10th May - 17th Sixth Sunday of Easter

CALENDAR

Sunday 10	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass
Monday 11	12.30pm Mass
Tuesday 12	1.05pm Mass St Pancras
Wednesday 13	1.05pm Mass Our Lady of Fatima 12.30pm <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 14	1.05pm Mass St Matthias, Apostle
Friday 15	1.05pm Mass 7.30pm Mass
Saturday 16	1.05pm Mass 4.30—5.30pm <i>Confessions</i> 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 17	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 09.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass

THE FISHER DINNER

The main social event in the Fisher House calendar takes place at Newnham College on 11 June. The guest of honour is Professor Robin Kirkpatrick. Tickets are available after Mass, or online via the Fisher Society Facebook page (under the 'events' tag). £30.00 drinking, or £25.50 non-drinking; if you need any help with this sum, please see Fr Mark.

FR JOHN OSMAN

The 11.00am Mass next week will be celebrated by Fr John Osman, chaplain at Fisher House 1988 - 1994.

KOLB FUND

These are the last few days to apply for grants from the Kolb fund. Eligible women may apply for grants towards the cost of books or equipment, travel (particularly if related to their studies) or medical expenses. Please see the Fisher House website, and click on 'other resources'.

CONSECRATION OF THE NEW ALTAR

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool will be with us on Sunday 31 May to consecrate the altar at 11.00am; this Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch .

MORNING PRAYER

As usual at this time of year, morning prayer will be celebrated at 8.00am each morning in the chapel, beginning next Monday. It will be followed by breakfast (£1). There will be no lunch available in the Fisher Room during this period.

CAFOD NEPAL APPEAL

It is still possible to donate to the CAFOD appeal; there will be a basket available after Mass, or donate online at cafod.org.uk/Nepal.

MASS AT MAGDALENE

Mass will be celebrated on Monday 11 May at 6.15 in Magdalene chapel, followed by drinks, Formal Hall, and punting. Please contact Max Nussbaumer (mn406) to book for Hall.

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

The talk for this week is cancelled. Catholicism for the curious makes a re-appearance next Michaelmas.

DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

Downside, a leading Catholic boarding school, is seeking Mathematics undergraduates or postgraduates who are interested in a teaching career. It has a professional development opportunity for an aspiring teacher at our school next year: please contact Daniel Gibbons on dgibbons@downside.co.uk

FISHER HOUSE STASH

Please see the notice board for details of Fisher House branded hoodies, shirts, scarves, mugs and cuff-links. Orders need to be made by 10 May.

COFFEE AFTER 11AM MASS

Do join us in the Fisher room,. Meet new people and help grow our community. Followed by an informal trip to a college brunch!

ALL IN PROJECT

Willing to exhibit your faith? A new project is being launched by young Catholics aiming to create a wall of witness to the faith. If interested in being a witness please contact Ryan: ryanchristopherday@gmail.com

SR ANN'S OPEN OFFICE

Drop in for tea, cake, conversation! 3 - 5pm on Friday.

THE FISHER BAR

Open every Friday 8.00-11.30pm. A wide selection of drinks available at great prices. Why not bring somebody new along this term?

COLLECTION COUNTERS

THIS WEEK: Theo and Josh.
NEXT WEEK: Magdalene and Rebecca. Many thanks for your efforts.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Collection last week: £451.00
Thank you!