

# HAIL MARY ....

**W**hen I was a member of the ecumenical chaplaincy team at King's College, London, one of my greatest privileges and joys was introducing non-Catholics to some of the riches of our Church's tradition. On one occasion, a devout Evangelical graduate student expressed an interest in learning more about praying the rosary. I explained the basics by telling him that on the first big bead we said an *Our Father*, on the ten little beads we said ten *Hail Marias*, and on the next big bead we said the *Glory Be*. Looking at me somewhat nervously, and at the rosary somewhat suspiciously, he said, "I don't know, Sr. Ann, I guess I'm just more of a big bead kind of a man myself".

Many of our non-Catholic friends suffer from anxiety that more honour given to Mary will inevitably mean less worship of her Son and His heavenly Father. And the fact that in praying the rosary we say ten *Hail Marias* for every *Our Father* and every *Glory Be* appears at first sight to prove that very point. That's an awful lot of praying to Mary, it seems. Doesn't it inevitably get in the way of our praying to God? In fact, of course, talking of Mary distracting us from God is a little like talking of *Hamlet* distracting us from Shakespeare. Catholic teaching is that Mary is not in any sense in competition with God for our love or our loyalty; rather, she is his masterpiece. The more we contemplate her, the more we will be inclined to marvel at her Creator. And the big and little beads of the rosary are not in competition either: the prayer we say on the little beads, the *Hail Mary*, is a completely biblical and profoundly Christ-centred prayer: literally so, it has the name of Jesus at its very heart. Above all, it is a prayer of gratitude and wonder. In the words of the Archangel to Mary, when she consents to be the Mother of Christ, it invites us to recall God's stupendous kindness in coming to live among us: hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you. That, in the end, is what we are celebrating when we pray the *Hail Mary*.

*Sr Ann*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 16 October: 29th Sunday of the Year

### CALENDAR: WEEK II OF TERM

Sunday 16	<b>29th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>		
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass	
Monday 17	12.30	Mass	St Ignatius of Antioch
Tuesday 18	1.05	Mass	St Luke, Evangelist
Wednesday 19	1.05	Mass	St Jean de Brébeuf and comp.
	12.30	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Thursday 20	1.05	Mass	St Edward the Confessor
Friday 21	1.05	Mass	
Saturday 22	1.05	Mass (EF)	St John Paul II
	4.30 - 5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 23	<b>30th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>		
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass -	
		<i>cel. Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford</i>	

MONS. MARK LANGHAM : SR ANN SWAILES OP : FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ

## CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

A short talk on aspects of the Catholic Faith over lunch on Monday. This week, Fr Mark will speak on 'Revelation.' All are welcome.

## LUNCH

is available each weekday in the Fisher Room, price £2.50

## FRIDAY COMPLINE

At 7.30pm, starting on Friday 21 October. A relaxed and quiet half hour, with a meditation. If you are a singer or musician contact Fr Mark or Sr Ann.

## CHILDRENS' LITURGY

We need helpers with the Children's liturgy at the 11.00am Mass during term time. We usually work in teams of three. All materials provided. Please sign up outside the chapel.

## PRAYER COMMUNITIES

The Fisher society is starting start a new initiative, "Prayer Communities" - small groups of students meeting to pray, socialize, and support each other in faith. Prayer community meetings will involve little commitment (so don't feel as if you can't join if you have many other commitments), and will be held once every 2 weeks. Sign up

## HCPT - THE CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TRUST

Each year HCPT takes 2000 disabled children to Lourdes for a pilgrimage in Easter week. The Cambridge Group hopes to take 6-8 children this year. This pilgrimage relies on volunteer careers. It is an amazing way to spend Easter week in Lourdes and to have a lot of fun. The dates will be 15/16 April to 21/22 April 2017. If interested please contact Margaret Duff (md669), Michael Loy (mpal2) or group104@hcpt.org.uk.

## ALTAR SERVERS

We are always looking for altar servers, for Sunday and weekday Masses, and for the Extraordinary Form Mass on Saturday. Please contact Felipe Contatto (fc379) if interested.

## SOUTHERN CHAPLAINCIES' PILGRIMAGE

On Saturday 29 Oct, over 200 Catholic students will come to Cambridge, to learn about St John Fisher, and to visit the city. They arrive at 11.00am, and leave at 4.00pm. It would be good to have some students here to greet and guide them - please sign the list if you can help.

## SR ANN'S OPEN OFFICE

Drop in for tea, cake, conversation. Friday afternoons, anytime between 3.00pm and



5.00pm.

## QUIZ NIGHT



Come and pit your wits against all comers in the Quiz Night at the Black Swan Bar. Fingers on Buzzers 8.00pm.

## SVP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul meets weekly for prayer, and takes food and hot drinks to the homeless every evening. If you would like to be part of the rota, contact Dorinda Chandrabose (dsc37), Gerard Martin (gjm45) or Elinor McNab (emkm2).

## EXTRAORDINARY FORM

The Tridentine Mass is celebrated on Saturdays at 1.05pm.

## FISHER SOCIETY FACEBOOK GROUP



Make sure you join the Fisher Society group on Facebook, to get up-to-the minute news about events.

## PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

The Chaplaincy will travel to Rome 5 - 11 December, staying centrally and visiting many of the historic and religious sites. The trip includes a Papal audience, visit to the tomb of St Peter under the basilica, Mass in St Ignatius' rooms and St Dominic's rooms, a visit to the Curia. Cost £499, and full details are available in the leaflets outside the chapel.

## ENGLISH MASS CHOIR

If you would like to be part of the choir that sings a range of music to high standard at 11.00am Mass on Sunday, please contact James Grimwood (jag217).

## LATIN MASS CHOIR

The Schola Cantorum sings Gregorian Chant and polyphony at the 9.00am Mass on Sunday. There is a rehearsal on Friday evening. Contact Nic Walker (nghw2).

## FLAME CONFERENCE

FLAME is a gathering of Catholic youth from across the country, to experience Christ's presence through times of prayerful worship and inspiring speakers, through music and much true enthusiasm." Date: 11 March 2017 If interested please email Justin (yhjn2).

**COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

**£337.91**

Thank you!