

HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE!

Whichever way you look at it, the Ascension seems like an odd sort of a feast. At first sight, after all, it commemorates a leave-taking; the dramatic departure of the Lord from the community which had so recently welcomed him back into their midst after his Passion and death. Psychological common sense would suggest, surely, that confusion and trauma, rather than rejoicing, would have been the disciples' reaction, and there doesn't seem much to celebrate in that.

Still more strangely, perhaps, according to St Luke's account in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples are called to account for what seems to be a perfectly normal response to a decidedly abnormal state of affairs: they are asked why they are standing gazing into heaven after the disappearing Lord. But why ever shouldn't they? What else would we expect them to do?

Perhaps the key to understanding all this is to realise that this feast is intended, not to emphasise our increasing distance from Jesus, as he ascends "far above yon azure height" as the hymn puts it, but, rather, to remind us of his abiding closeness to us. It is a feast not of desolation and absence, but of consolation and presence.

If we are members of his body, even after his ascension Christ is inseparably united to us, closer to us than we are to ourselves, present with us not only in all our joys and festivity but also in all our sorrows and anxiety. As St Augustine puts it: "Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body have to bear".

This unity between us and Christ gives us confidence for the future: if Jesus really is the head of his body, the Church, his entrance into heaven surely gives us grounds to hope that this will one day be our destiny too. And, paradoxically, that helps, perhaps, to make sense of that odd injunction to the disciples not to stand around staring into the bright blue yonder. Christ will return one day in glory, as we proclaim Sunday by Sunday in the Creed at Mass, and then indeed he will take his friends to be with him where he is. But, in the meantime, there is work to be done, in the strength of his Spirit and for his sake; the work of being his body, his presence, in the world he loved and came to save.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 17th May - 24th The Ascension of The Lord

CALENDAR

Sunday 17	ASCENSION SUNDAY 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass
Monday 18	12.30pm Mass
Tuesday 19	1.05pm Mass
Wednesday 20	1.05pm Mass 6.15pm Mass at Queen's College 12.30pm <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 21	1.05pm Mass
Friday 22	1.05pm Mass 7.30pm Mass
Saturday 23	1.05pm Mass 4.30—5.30pm <i>Confessions</i> 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 24	PENTECOST SUNDAY 09.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass

FR JOHN OSMAN

We welcome (back) at Masses this weekend Fr John, who was chaplain at Fisher House 1988 - 1994. Fr John is currently parish priest at Dorchester upon Thames.

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.

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'.

MASS AT QUEENS'

College Mass at Queens on Wednesday, 6.15pm. Please contact Michael Loy for more details (mpal2).

MORNING PRAYER

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

FR BRUNO'S ULTRAMARATHON

Fr Bruno will be running a 68-mile ultra-marathon on 26 June! He's hoping to raise £6,000 for training the new generation of Dominican Friars. Please sponsor him if you can via www.justgiving.com/BrunoCliftonOP/

SR ANN'S OPEN OFFICE

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

COFFEE AFTER 11AM MASS

Do join us in the Fisher room and meet new people. Followed by an informal trip to a college brunch.

SUNDAY 31 MAY

On this day, Trinity Sunday, the Archbishop of Liverpool will consecrate our new altar at 11.00am Mass. Owing to the scale of this service, there will be no 9.00am Mass that day. The 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 30 will take place as usual.

ART EXHIBITS

If you exhibited in the recent exhibition and have not yet collected your artwork, please come to Fisher House dining room during the week, where it is available.

SAINTS AND SCONES

Will not take place this week. Look out for details of next week's special joint meeting with the SVP, with a showing of a film about the life of St Vincent de Paul. After that, Sr Ann will hang up her rolling pin and clotted cream pot until the autumn...

COLLECTION COUNTERS THIS WEEK:

Magdalene and

Rebeca

NEXT WEEK: Caroline and Maria

Many thanks for your efforts.

PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF STONE

On Saturday 30th May there is the opportunity to visit a beautiful Marian shrine rich in Catholic history. There will be a talk on Our Lady, Mother of the Church by Sr Ann, a rosary procession and Mass. The minibus leaves from Cambridge c8am, returning c8pm, cost c£25. See Sr Ann if you interested in taking part.

TWO SUMMER EVENTS FOR UNDER 35's.

The annual *Youth 2000* festival in Walsingham takes place from the 27th - 31st August in Walsingham. See the website for details: (<http://www.youth2000.org/#!/the-promised-land/c13gp>)

The *Faith movement* hosts the annual summer session in Woldingham from the August 3rd - 7th. See their website for details: (<http://www.faith.org.uk/events/faith-summer-session-2015>)

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Collection last week: £366

Thank you!