

HANDS THAT EMBRACE THE POOR

“Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth.”

With these words from St John’s first letter, Pope Francis begins his message for the first World Day of Prayer for the Poor, and very much sets the tone for this initiative. Prayer is at the heart of the Church’s service for the poor - the *Our Father* bids us pray for our ‘daily bread.’ But if, by praying about poverty, we mean finding an alternative or an excuse for not doing anything about it, then our prayer is empty. Practical help for the poor was one of the first characteristics of the early Christian community, and in this light the famous words of St James - ‘what does it profit, if you say you have faith but not good works?’ - take on a special meaning. True faith, true prayer, is expressed in action, not merely in meaning well.

Yet it is difficult. What difference can we make to the great weight of poverty in the world? What difference can we make even in Cambridge? You probably passed several homeless people on the way to Mass at the chaplaincy, and the enormity of the problem is bewildering. Pope Francis does not let us off lightly: charity is not an extra, an added good work. It goes to the heart of what it is to meet Christ. Even small acts of charity are transformative, not just of the recipient, but of us. Boldly, Pope Francis notes that our ‘occasional volunteer work, or impromptu acts of generosity’ lead us to view the poor in a different way, so that charity becomes a way of life where we truly encounter Christ in his poor, so that we find inner peace and joy. This is no mere optional activity: Pope Francis sees us compelled to see Christ in the Poor in virtue of the Holy Communion we have received: ‘If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist.’

Serving the poor means walking behind Christ and beside him - I have long thought that the most marvellous aspect of our nightly SVP soup run is the dignity it bestows on the poor, the way that our volunteers take time to talk, to say a kind word, to recognise the face of Christ. There are many other ways to help, particularly over Christmas. Don’t neglect this aspect of our Christian duty.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 19 November: 33rd Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR: WEEK VII OF TERM

Sunday 19	33rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass	
Monday 20	1.05 Mass	
Tuesday 21	1.05 Mass	<i>Presentation of BVM</i>
Wednesday 22	1.05 Mass 12.30 Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	<i>St Cecilia, patron of music</i>
Thursday 23	1.05 Mass	<i>St Clement I</i>
Friday 24	1.05 Mass 7.30 Exposition, Evening Prayer & Reflection	<i>Martyrs of Korea</i>
Saturday 25	1.05 Mass 4.30 - 5.30 Confessions 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday	<i>St Catherine of Alexandria</i>
Sunday 26	CHRIST THE KING 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass	

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR POVERTY

Pope Francis has designated this Sunday the *World Day of the Poor*, "so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need."

Prayers at Mass will reflect this theme, and there will be a CAFOD display in the Fisher Room following the 11.00am Mass.

INTERFAITH TALK

On Thursday 23 November, Rabbi Mordechai Zeller, on eof the University Jewish chaplains, will speak on the Jewish Faith. Great Chamber, 7.30pm. All welcome.

THE FISHER HOUSE PANTOMIME!



On Thursday 30 November at 4.00pm members of Fisher House (senior and junior) will perform *Dick Whittington and*

his cat, a traditional family pantomime, at Cripps Court, Chesterton Road, Magdalene College. Admission free. Come along to cheer the hero, boo the villain, and enjoy some good old panto humour!

CAKE SALE



After 11am Mass on Sunday, there will be lots of cake to enjoy with your coffee. All donations will be given to the CCHP (The Cambridge

Churches Homelessness Project). Thank you for your generosity—the Beer family.

BOOK SALE TOO!

While you are munching cakes, there will be a chance to browse excess stock from the library which we are selling off. Everything 50p. Proceeds to charity.

TUESDAY TALKS: APOLOGIA

This week, Br Issac Wharton (OP) - *So study is supposed to make me holy: what's that about?* All welcome. Dinner is served at 7.00pm, and the talk takes place at 7.45pm, followed by Compline and Bar.

SAINTS AND SCONES

Hear about *St Albert the Great* as you enjoy a real Devon cream tea. Sunday 4.30pm Sr Anne's room.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

A one-day course for engaged couples will be held at Fisher House on Saturday 25 November. Please contact Fr Mark on ml709

GIVING TREE



The SVP's traditional 'Giving Tree' has arrived, encouraging us to buy a gift for a homeless person over Christmas. Take a pair of labels in the price range you wish, buy the gift, one label on the gift, the other on the tree.

BENSON CLUB

We have been reading Graham Greene's masterpiece *The Power and the Glory*, (a book every Catholic should read!) and will discuss it on Wednesday 22 November in the Great Chamber.

CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES' HOMELESS PROJECT

If you will be here over the Christmas holiday, or want to help early in the new year with this project, please contact Stephen Barwise on stephenbarwise@btinternet.com

FR MARK

will be preaching at Evensong in Trinity College tonight, 19 November, 6.15pm.

RETREAT: 3-6 DECEMBER

This is now full, but contact Fr Mark to be put on the waiting list.

CUCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The CUCA Annual General Meeting will be held at 12:00 next Sunday, 26 November 2017. Elections for positions on CUCA Council will take place at the AGM. The following positions are to be filled: **President**;

Secretary (Dr Mark Retter standing for election);

Treasurer (Dr Damian Crowther standing for re-election);

Librarian (Ms Alex Browne standing for re-election);

three Ordinary Members.

It is good to come to the AGM, to show your support, and to learn how CUCA runs the chaplaincy. For all enquiries, please contact: cuca_secretary@fisherhouse.org.uk.

FAITH IN POLITICS INTERNSHIPS

A tremendous opportunity for recent graduates to gain experience in Parliament and Public life, and highly recommended. These internships are sponsored by the Bishops of England and Wales. Details on the poster outside the chapel.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£340.96

Thank you!