

JESUS, THE STRONGER ONE

During the weekdays of this year, we are hearing readings from the Gospel of Mark. But unlike Matthew and Luke, with their heart-warming passages about the Sermon on the Mount and the man who had two sons, Mark's Gospel is more scary and demanding. As hearers of the word these days, we enter the Markan world characterized by demonic and evil forces, and we witness the conflict between such forces and Jesus. Moreover, many of these dark forces are portrayed as deeply human and intrinsic to our own lives, and perhaps even directly relevant to our experience today.

Yet we notice too that in Mark, Jesus is always the Stronger One. He is, above all, the agent who sets human beings free from demonic control—from those forces and captivities which bind and constrict us. But this in itself is problematic, for we who are inheritors of Enlightenment rationality are necessarily suspicious and wary of the very possibility of 'enchantment' in our world today. We do not readily admit talk of devils, demons, possession, exorcism, or any phenomena that do not bear a rational explanation in this contemporary human life of ours. Yet as troubling as this 'spirit-talk' is for us, to dismiss it out of hand as outdated is to dismiss with it the powerful and consoling message of Mark. This message is that Jesus is the one who liberates us from those things that oppress us and control us in our lives.

Both this notion of 'control' and the message of freedom find application for us today because we are invited to think about those pressures of our lives—personal, vocational, social, economic—in which we are captive, and from which we feel ourselves powerless to control or escape by ourselves. The Gospel of Mark holds out to us the truth that no matter what binds us or holds us back in this life of ours, Jesus is the Stronger One. That no matter the size of the hurdle we face, or the weight of the burden we bear, Jesus Son of God has the strength to free us, heal us, and encourage us, especially when we do not. Perhaps, this week, then, we can pray for the courage and the strength to offer ourselves in a new way to Christ, trusting that he is one who has our situations under control, even when we feel



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 19 February: 7th Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR: WEEK V OF TERM

Sunday 19 February	7th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00 11.00	Sung Latin Mass Sung English Mass	
Monday 20	12.30	Mass	
Tuesday 21	1.05	Mass	<i>St Peter Damian</i>
Wednesday 22	1.05 12.30	Mass <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	<i>Chair of St Peter</i>
Thursday 24	1.05	Mass	<i>St Polycarp</i>
Friday 24	1.05 6.00	Mass FISHER LECTURE	
Saturday 25	1.05 4.30 - 5.30 6.00	Mass (EF) <i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 26	8th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00 11.00	Sung Latin Mass Sung English Mass	

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOS

A short talk on varied aspects of the Catholic faith, over lunch. Monday, 1.15pm. This week, *The Council of Trent*.

OXFORD/CAMBRIDGE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

A group of alumni is trying to revive this tradition join pilgrimage, which takes place this year 22-29 July. Bursaries are available. There will be an information evening at Fisher House (with Pizza) this Thursday, 23 February, at 6.00pm.

LEARN ITALIAN IN THE SUMMER

A Fisher House alumnus is offering a summer camp experience, in Reggio Calabria, for a group of about 10 students from Fisher House to learn Italian and experience Italian culture (and cooking!). Please contact Fr Mark (ml709) if interested.

PRAYER COMMUNITIES

Small groups of students meet to pray, socialize, and support each other in faith. Prayer community meetings involve little commitment, and are held once every 2 weeks. Contact your college rep or Justin (yhjn2).

LUNCH

is available Monday to Friday

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

For young parents—the Diocese of East Anglia is responding to the Governments new initiatives on Faith Schools. Maria Goodall will speak briefly at 11.00 Mass today, and will be available for your questions.

SCRIPTURAL REASONING

A friendly discussion based on passages from the Bible, Torah and Quran, which explore a given theme (this time it will be sacrifice) - Tuesday, meet at Fisher House 6.00pm. Join the event on the Fisher Society Facebook Page, or put your name on the sign-up sheet at Fisher House.

MASS AT ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

Mass will be celebrated at St Edmund's College on Tuesday. Any altar servers especially welcome!

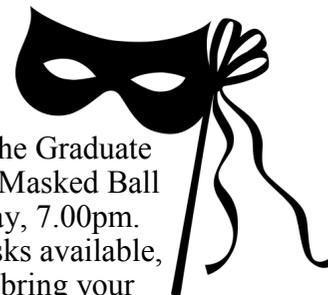
SAINTS AND SCONES

Every Sunday afternoon, at 4.30pm in her office, This week, Brother Isaac OP from Blackfriars will speak on Blessed Charles de Foucauld - over traditional cream tea!

HENRY MARTYN LECTURES

Prof. Emmanuel Katongole, from Notre Dame University, will be delivering three lectures entitled 'Who are my people: Christianity, Violence and Belonging in post-colonial Africa.' 20, 21, 22 February, 5.30pm, Runcie Room,

GRADSOC: MASQUERADE BALL



Come to the Graduate Society's Masked Ball Wednesday, 7.00pm. Some masks available, but better bring your own!

BENSON DINNER

The Graduate Society's annual Benson Dinner will take place on Saturday 4 March at 7.30pm in the candle-lit splendour of the Library. All grads and alumni are welcome! Sign up by 23 Feb on FB GradSoc page or on <https://goo.gl/OzXNek>

PALM BRANCHES

Over the coming weeks, we are asking you to bring in your palm branches. These will be burned for the ash that we will use on Ash Wednesday.

SR ANN'S OPEN OFFICE

Drop in for tea, cake, conversation. Friday afternoons, anytime between 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

FRIDAY COMPLINE

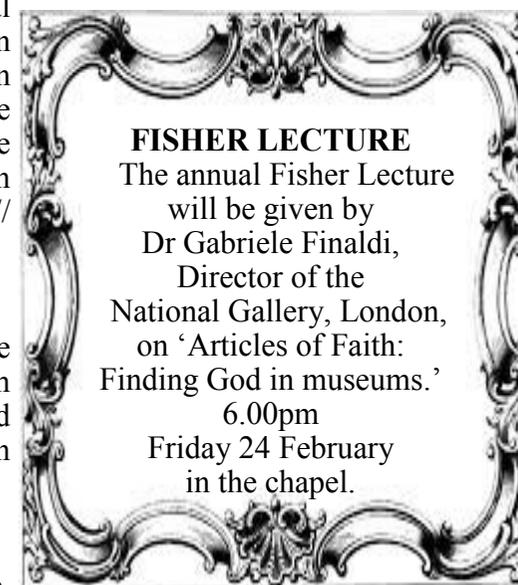
At 7.30pm, a relaxed and quiet half hour, with a meditation. If you are a singer or musician contact Fr Mark or Sr Ann.

FOOTBALLING HONOUR

For two years, the More/Fisher trophy has adorned the Black Swan bar. Now the Oxford chaplaincy wants it back. You can stop them: sign up for the Fisher House football team outside the chapel.

BOOK SALE

- next Sunday, 26 February, after 11.00 Mass, in the Fisher Room. Proceeds to HCPT.



COLLEGE MASSES

Tues. 7 Mar Robinson
Wed. 8 Mar Queens'
- please watch the notice board for more details.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£326.98

Thank you!