

UNTIL THY HIGH BEHEST IS DONE

In the narrow streets of Naples are set many little shrines displaying figures painted (it must be said) with more faith than artistry emerging from a sea of flame. A similar image, more expertly rendered in mosaic, adorns the Holy Souls chapel in Westminster Cathedral, where souls stand waist-deep in a flaming sea, weeping for their sins while awaiting rescue. These, together with countless other images, sermons, visions and prayers, are attempts to depict the plight of the Holy Souls, for whom we pray especially this month.

Pope Benedict, in his teaching about Purgatory, had several caveats about this popular image of the fate of the souls of the faithful departed. He reminded us that the Church has never taught that Purgatory is a place - rather it is a process, a purification after death to enable us to behold the unmediated glory of God. The souls in Purgatory are on the move - Dante portrays them as such - as opposed to the fixed, eternal punishment of Hell. A purification there is indeed in Purgatory; but the notion of purification has induced many, including the scholastic fathers, to describe a real fire. Pope Benedict reminds us that Purgatory is not a 'second hell', nor is it halfway between heaven and hell; too much emphasis on fire as a punishment perhaps has led to this error. It was St Bonaventure who offered a different narrative, where the 'fire' is the longing of the soul for Christ, who has already begun to burn away the dross of sin. St Catherine of Genoa, a favourite of Pope Benedict, speaks of 'fire' in Purgatory as both delight and pain, as the soul 'burns' with longing to be before God in heaven. The suffering of Purgatory is of fulfilment delayed, of the intense anticipation of glory, and awareness of one's own unreadiness.

Cardinal Newman has great insight here: in his *Dream of Gerontius*, the soul of Gerontius is carried before the throne of God. Borne by the prayers of the angels, encouraged by the prayers of the faithful on earth, Gerontius comes at last to the vision of God. It is depicted with nerve-tingling brilliance in Elgar's setting, where the music rises louder to an enormous - silence. At the moment of encounter there is a stunning quiet before a crash, out of which a voice cries 'Take me away!' Gerontius cannot bear to be loved so much, and pleads to be given time to prepare for the eternal joy of heaven. Our prayers this month will assist our loved ones on their own journey to eternal bliss.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 2 November - ALL SAINTS

CALENDAR

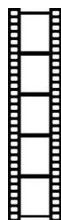
Sunday 2	ALL SAINTS		
	8.00	Missa Cantata in the Extraordinary Form	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass	
Monday 3	12.30	Mass	ALL SOULS
Tuesday 4	1.05	Mass	St Charles Borromeo
Wednesday 5	1.05	Mass	
	12.30	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Thursday 6	1.05	Mass	
Friday 7	1.05	Mass	
	7.30	Mass (& 'Crumbs')	
Saturday 8	1.05	Mass	
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 9		DEDICATION OF LATERAN BASILICA	
		REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
	8.00	Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass: cel. Bishop John Arnold	

CAFOD EBOLA CRISIS APPEAL

The outbreak of Ebola has killed thousands of people across West Africa. Please pray for those affected and donate to the appeal. Your gift will provide life-saving hygiene kits, food for quarantined families, and help prevent the spread of the disease. You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/ebola, or by calling 0500 85 88 85. There will be a collection after Masses this weekend.

MOVIE NIGHT

Tonight, *Shadowlands*, the story of how C.S. Lewis coped with the death of his wife, and how it affected his faith. 8.00pm Fisher Room. Popcorn provided.



MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

A book of remembrance will be left outside the chapel for you to record names of those you wish prayed for during November. They will be remembered at Mass throughout the month.

FACEBOOK & WEBSITE

Keep up to date with announcements on the Fisher Society Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/fishersociety/ - and don't forget to check the Fisher House website, www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse

FISHER BITES

Our Fisher House community boasts some brilliant experts in their field. Fisher Bites is a chance to hear them, on their own topic, in a relaxed atmosphere. On 4 November, Prof. Nicholas Boyle will talk on Faust. Library, 8.00pm. Wine provided.

MEDICAL ETHICS GROUP

The second meeting of this group, of particular (but not exclusive) interest to medics, is on Monday 3 November at 7.00pm in the Fisher House library. For details contact Basia Chmielewska (bjmc2)

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

A series of talks over lunch on Mondays, given by Fr Mark in the Fisher Room at 1.15, on a range of topics to do with Catholicism. This week: *What really happened with Guy Fawkes?*

FISHER FAMILIES

A new group for those with bumps, babies and little children, meeting on Mondays from 3.00pm - 4.30pm in Sr Ann's room. Meet other Catholic families, eat cake, and bring along something to play with or read together. Contact Irenka Lennon (wmis2)

LUNCH is available in the Fisher Room every weekday during term, for £1.50.

VOCATIONS DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Next Saturday, there will be a day of recollection at Blackfriars, in Buckingham Road; think, talk, pray with men or women who may be thinking of vocation to priesthood or religious life. Come and meet others who are exploring; 10.00am-4.00pm. For more information, contact Sr Ann (acs92).

BISHOP JOHN ARNOLD

Bishops continue to beat their way to our door. The 11.00am Mass next Sunday will be celebrated by Bishop John Arnold, head bishop for CAFOD, newly appointed bishop of Salford and - more important yet - bishop responsible for the Oxford and Cambridge chaplaincies. Following Mass there will be a chance to meet Bishop John over coffee in the Fisher Room.

ALL SAINTS AND SCONES

On Sunday afternoon, learn about saints while enjoying a traditional Devonshire Cream Tea. This week: The Feast of All Saints. Sr Ann's room, 4.30pm

APOLOGETICS GROUP

Meeting in the Library on Saturday at 7.00pm, the Group will this term study St Augustine's *Confessions*. For more information contact Hania Wyciszczok (hmw56) or Max Nussbaumer (mn406).

SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

This week please note meeting on WEDNESDAY at 6.45pm in the chapel (instead of Thursday).

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

A course of marriage preparation will begin at Fisher House on Tuesday 11 November—note change of date. Please contact Fr Mark (ml709) if you are interested in taking part.

SCHOLA CANTORUM

Providing Gregorian chant and polyphony for the 9.00 Latin Mass each Sunday. New members always welcome. Contact Jonathan Schranz (js2041)

FRIDAY NIGHT CHOIR

If you are a singer or instrumentalist and would like to help in the Friday evening Mass, please contact Stephen Bick (sb982).

COLLEGE MASSES

Clare 3 November 6.00pm
Corpus 10 November 5.30
Robinson 18 November 6.30pm
Selwyn 27 November 6.30pm

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£532.54