

KEEPING IT REAL

We are not good at being ourselves, I think it fair to say. We spend a great deal of our time - and energy - worrying about what others think of us, whether we come across in the right way, if we said the right thing. We live (many of us) in a certain low-level anxiety at what people would think if they knew the real us, what we are truly like - if they found out our secrets.

Jesus, in the gospels, singles out a relatively b-list disciple, Bartholomew, as 'a man in whom there is no guile'. That is, his inner life matches his outer life, he is a someone who does not deceive, does not have a secret hidden personality. In old computer speak, he is WYSIWYG: What you see is what you get. And in negative terms, this is what Jesus is always complaining to the Pharisees and Scribes about: that they say one thing and do another, that they lay burdens on others' shoulders but do not play their part to help, that they are 'whited sepulchres' - smart on the outside but dying within.

This is a particularly keen observation for Lent. Jesus, as you might expect, does not miss the opportunity. Don't go around with long faces, fasting in public, when your inner disposition is anything but penitential. As we sit at dinner with the glass of water in front of us, as we refuse the proffered chocolate or take the vegetarian option, is this really reflecting a real inner disposition? Does my fasting make a difference to me - what does it say about my attitude towards those who are hungry through no choice of their own? Does my refusal of alcohol make me think more of those who have to fight for the water they drink? Does my inner self match my other self? If not, can I truly call myself a follower of Christ? For, in words used by Pope Francis this week of an American presidential candidate, if I build walls instead of bridges, do I really deserve the name of Christian?

It is a difficult thing, this honesty, this lack of guile. Most of us spend most of our lives trying to get there. But it is good to be reminded of this in Lent, and to do our best to ensure that our Lenten fasts, or extra deeds, reflect our inner life, rather than cloak it.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 21st February - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK VI

Sunday 21	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00am	Sung English Mass
Monday 22	12.30pm	Mass <i>Chair of St Peter</i>
Tuesday 23	1.05pm	Mass
Wednesday 24	1.05pm	Mass
	12.30pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 25	1.05pm	Mass
Friday 26	1.05pm , 7.30pm	Mass
	6.45pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 27	1.05	Mass in EF
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 28	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ
www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse/

SVP VISITS

The SVP Group is beginning a new initiative, to visit the elderly in their homes. If you would like to be part of this, or if you (or someone you know) would like a visit, please sign up on the list outside chapel.

SVP PRAYER PARTNERS

This Lent, the SVP invite you to consider adopting a prayer partner. For more information come to a short meeting and prayer service on Sunday night at 6.30pm, or see Fee Doherty or Sr Ann for more details.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

This Lent, CAFOD is seeking to provide water to communities in Africa without it. There is a collection basket outside the chapel.

SAFEGUARDING VOLUNTEER FORM

In order to comply with national safeguarding regulations, we will begin asking all our volunteers (especially for the children's liturgy and the SVP) to fill out a form. It requires two referees - who can be anyone you know, but not clergy.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

On Monday at 7.30pm in the Library. All welcome.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

In each diocese, there has been designated a 'Door of Mercy', and the ancient shrine of Walsingham has one. There will be a day pilgrimage to Walsingham on 14 March, with Mass, a talk by the shrine Rector, and a visit to the ruins of the medieval priory. Cost £10. Please sign up on the board outside the chapel if interested.

FISHER COMMITTEE

We congratulate new members of the Fisher Committee, and thank them for their generosity. In particular, we offer warm congratulations to the new chairman, Daniel Fernando, and to his vice-chairman, Liam Boon Keat Ong.

COMPLINE

Compline is sung in chapel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9.00pm; Fridays at 9.30pm.

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

A series of talks over lunch on Monday at 1.15pm, given by Fr Mark. This week: *'What do Catholics think about the death penalty?'*

SEMINAR ON ANGLICAN-CATHOLIC DIALOGUE

On 1 March at 4.00pm at Clare College, Fr Mark will be speaking at a seminar to mark 50 years of an official Anglican presence in Rome.

FISHER LECTURE

Professor Monica Grady, one of our foremost authorities on planets and space science, will speak on *Science, Faith and Life*, on Tuesday 23 February in the chapel at 5.00pm. All welcome.

POPES I HAVE KNOWN

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will deliver a talk on Popes I have Known (and he's known a few!) on Saturday at 7.15pm in the Fisher Room. All are welcome.

CARDINAL AT MASS

Cardinal Cormac will celebrate the 11.00am Mass next Sunday, and will confer the sacrament of confirmation. Following Mass, there will be a buffet lunch in the Fisher Room.

FRUGAL FRIDAY & CAFOD

A cookbook produced at Fisher House, containing dozens of each recipes. On sale after Mass at £7 (includes £1 donation to CAFOD's Lent charity). Cheques to CUCA (nb).

COLLEGE MASS

On Thursday 25 February Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at Pembroke College.

SAINTS AND SCONES

Sister Ann is away this week, so we keep a Lenten fast from scones (and indeed saints).

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

In response to the call of Pope Francis, we will hold 24 hours' adoration from Friday 4 to Saturday 5 March. Please sign up to watch before the Blessed Sacrament during this time.

NIGHT FEVER

As part of the 24 Hours for the Lord, Night Fever will be held on Friday evening from 8.00pm to 11.00pm. The idea is to invite people into the chapel to light a candle, and offer a prayer. Please sign up on the list on the board.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

There will be a one-day course of marriage preparation on Saturday 12 March. This is a requirement for those wishing to marry in Church. Please see Fr Mark if interested.

THE SPIRIT OF ST DOMINIC

To conclude our short series on different religious orders, Sr Ann will speak on St Dominic and his followers on March 3 at 7.30pm in the Fisher Room.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£397.81

Thank you!