

# PONDERING THE PAST

Whatever your take on recent events on either side of the Atlantic, it is hard not to agree that these are momentous times. We are in new territory in political and economic terms. And you can include the Church in that, with the unprecedented levels of discussion (to put it mildly!) taking place under the Pontificate of Pope Francis.

Another extraordinary event took place last week, when the two senior Church of England Archbishops expressed regret for the violence committed in the name of religion at the Reformation. In our context, at Fisher House, that has an extraordinary resonance. Our chaplaincy is named for the martyred Cardinal John Fisher, and the Cambridge alumni who gave their life for the Catholic faith are listed in our chapel and their relics are in our altar. Just gaze across Market Square as you leave Mass; the evocative sight of Great St Mary's and King's College Chapel, built in medieval Catholic England, bring for a Catholic a tinge of dispossession, alienation, loss.

It is wrong to wallow in history. But it is also dangerous to ignore it - history is an overcoat that we wear, it shapes the way we see our place in this society, and our relations with other Christians. And of course, we must acknowledge our own part in this history - the persecution by Catholics of men and women for their reformed faith, symbolised in Cambridge by the burning of the bones of Martin Bucer in Market Square at the command of Queen Mary. Pope John Paul said that any ecumenism must begin with a personal recognition of failures.

But the Archbishops' statement is far from a self-indulgent baring of scars. They mention the past in order to compel us to look at the present and future. Firstly, to recognise our part in perpetuating division. We have grown too used to living apart; we presume that our differences are a natural state of affairs. The statement says crisply that our disunity as Christians stands 'in defiance of the clear command of Jesus Christ to unity in love.' We must rekindle the urgency of unity. Secondly, we must turn together towards Christ, for it is when we are most like him that we are closest to each other. Putting Christ, rather than our own constructions, at the centre of our life more faithfully will do more than we can ever accomplish to bring about our unity in him.

*Fr Mark*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 22 January: 3rd Sunday of the Year

### CALENDAR: WEEK I OF TERM

Sunday 22	<b>3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass (Requiem) 11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 23	12.30 Mass
Tuesday 24	1.05 Mass St Francis de Sales
Wednesday 25	1.05 Mass Conversion of St Paul 12.30 <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 26	1.05 Mass St Timothy and St Titus
Friday 27	1.05 Mass 5.45 Mass: Knights of Holy Sepulchre 7.30 Compline
Saturday 28	1.05 Mass (EF) St Thomas Aquinas 4.30 - 5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 29	<b>4th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass Cel: Archbishop Kevin McDonald

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

## **CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS**

A short talk on varied aspects of the Catholic faith, over lunch. Monday, 1.15pm. This week, *What is the point of ecumenism?*

## **LUNCH**

is available each weekday in the Fisher Room, price £1.50. Come on the day—or tickets are on sale after Mass, 10 for the price of 9!

## **GRADUATE SOCIETY**

meets on Wednesday at 7.30pm. Termcards will soon be available.

## **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).

## **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.

## **FISHER SOCIETY AGM**

On Sunday 5 February at 12 noon, the new Fisher Committee will take up its office, and the new Chairman elected. If you would like to be part of the Fisher Committee, please contact Fr Mark or sign up on the list outside chapel. Nominations for Chairman/woman are especially welcome. Please consider supporting this important aspect of the Chaplaincy life.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

We would encourage all children to take part in the children's liturgy at 11.00am Sunday Mass. As well as providing a family-oriented catechesis, it allows the congregation in chapel a moment of quiet, particularly during the sermon.

## **SAINTS AND SCONES**

Every Sunday afternoon, at 4.30pm in her office, Sr Ann discusses the life of a saint over a traditional cream tea.

## **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.

## **COLLEGE MASSES**

Mon. 30 Jan	Selwyn
Thurs. 16 Feb	Pembroke
Tues. 21 Feb	St Edmunds
Tues. 7 Mar	Robinson
Wed. 8 Mar	Queens'

## **LUNCH TODAY!**

There is a free lunch cooked by the Fisher Committee available after 11.00am Mass today in the Fisher Room.

## **MEET THE CHAPLAINS**

Fr Mark will hold an 'at home' evening on Wednesday, with a buffet supper, for first years. 7.30pm in the Great Chamber - all first years welcome. (There will be a similar 'at home' for second years next week.)

## **ARCHBISHOP McDONALD**

Archbishop Kevin McDonald, emeritus of Southwark, will celebrate and preach at 11.00am Mass next Sunday.

## **KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE**

The Knights will celebrate Mass here in the chapel on Friday at 5.45pm. Bishop Peter Doyle of Northampton will be the main celebrant. All are welcome.

## **SR ANN'S OPEN OFFICE**

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

## **TERM CARDS**

If you are a College Rep, and have not yet done so, please take the bundle of cards for your college from the table outside the chapel.

## **TREASURE HUNT**



Explore the hidden regions of Fisher House, and follow the path into unimaginable regions, in the hunt for buried

treasure. The hunt begins in the Black Swan Bar, Friday at 8.30pm. Gold doubloons, or at least chocolate, for the winners.

## **FISHER FAMILIES**

A group for young families, meeting every second Tuesday in the Fisher Room at 2.00pm. Contact Emma Boland (ejdt2).

## **DANTE CIRCLE**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1 February at 5.30pm in the Great Chamber to look at Paradiso XXIII. All welcome. Translations provided and no knowledge of Italian necessary.

## **BOOK SALE**

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

**COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

**£347.69**

Thank you!