

TWO GREAT WOMEN

This week I have been celebrating two remarkable women. The first is obvious. I am an unrepentant monarchist, and since Cardinal Henry Stuart surrendered his (Catholic) claim to the throne to King George IV in return for a pension, I can with a clear conscience pledge my loyalty to the House of Windsor. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, whose ninetieth birthday fell last Thursday, towers above her era. She has lived through the terms of 8 Popes, 15 American Presidents, and 3 French Republics. That longevity makes her remarkable in her own right. The institution she represents effectively encapsulates the nation mood and identity; it is hard, to think of a visit by anyone else having the historical and political impact, for example, of her 2011 trip to the Republic of Ireland. Yet, increasingly, the personal and constitutional aspects of her reign have been drawn together in her explicit confession of Christian faith. In her 2015 Christmas broadcast, the Queen said, “For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ’s example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.” We are fortunate to have a Head of State so deeply motivated by, and sharing of, her Christian faith.

The second woman is perhaps less obvious. Victoria Wood, who died this week, was a comic genius - she was particularly popular when I was in seminary, and many a sketch for our concerts was modelled on her humour. Someone this week compared her to Alan Bennet for her ability to observe, and gently send up, working class attitudes. But I am most grateful to her for her help in writing sermons. Victoria Wood anchored her sketches in real life, never merely saying ‘I was going to the shops to buy bread’, but rather ‘I was going to Tesco to buy Hovis’. This immediately placed the listener in the situation, making the dialogue alive and relevant. Realising what she was doing, I have always tried to anchor my sermons in real experience, to relate it to those who are listening in terms that open up their imagination. For that alone, I am grateful to this wonderful comedienne. And that is not to mention *Acorn Antiques ...*

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 24 APRIL - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK I

Sunday 24	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass	
Monday 25	12.30	Mass	St Mark, Evangelist
Tuesday 26	1.05	Mass	
Wednesday 27	1.05	Mass	
	12.30	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Thursday 28	1.05	Mass	
Friday 29	1.05	Mass	St Catherine of Siena, Doctor
	7.30	Mass	
Saturday 30	1.05	Mass	St Pius V
		in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)	
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 1	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
May	9.00	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00	Sung English Mass	

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ

MARCH FOR LIFE

A coach will be headed to the Pro-Life Festival at Birmingham on Saturday May 14, cost £20/£15. Book now! Visit:

bit.do/march4lifecambridge
For more details, contact Ed Smith ednsmith@gmail.com, 07897194483 or Grace Langford (gl359)

BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON

Bishop John, a graduate of Queens' College and now auxiliary bishop in Westminster, will celebrate and preach at the 11.00am Mass next Sunday.

THE FISHER MASS

On Monday 2 May, at 12.00 in Great St Mary's, the main religious festival of our year, as we celebrate the Feast of St John Fisher and the martyrs of Cambridge. The preacher will be the Archbishop of Birmingham. Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch - all are welcome.

FISHER LECTURE

This was to have taken place on 20 May, but is now postponed until February.

LUNCH

A simple but convivial lunch is provided daily in the Fisher Room, from 1.00pm.

COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE

Pope Francis has asked that a special collection be taken this weekend at all Churches in Europe for the people of the Ukraine. A basket is available outside the chapel.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

The organiser of the Oxford & Cambridge Lourdes Pilgrimage will be at Fisher House on Monday 25 April at 6:30pm to give a talk about the Oxford/Cambridge Lourdes pilgrimage. We hope to have a group going from the chaplaincy to the pilgrimage in July. Contact Gerard Martin (gjm45)

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

A series of talks over lunch on Mondays, given by Fr Mark in the Fisher Room at 1.15, on topics to do with Catholicism. This week: *Some thoughts on the Eucharist.*

KOLB FUND

Grants of up to £500 for Catholic women students at Cambridge University. Grants may be applied for the cost of books or equipment, travel (particularly if related to your studies) or medical expenses. Grants are made towards the end of Easter term, and the deadline for applications is 13 May. Please see the noticeboard for details of how to apply, or visit the Kolb Fund page on the Fisher House website.

FISHER DINNER

The highlight of the Chaplaincy Social calendar, the Dinner will take place at Darwin College on Thursday 9 June. Tickets £29.50 (drinking), £22 (non-drinking) - thanks to a generous subsidy from CUCA. Spaces are filling up very quickly, so make sure you sign up on the notice outside chapel, or on the Fisher Society Facebook Page as soon as possible.

COMPLINE

This has been a very worthwhile development in the life of Fisher House. We wish to continue it, and are asking for a rota of people to lead it - please sign up on the list outside the chapel.

GRADSOC CEILIDH

Next Saturday, at Emmanuel Church—meet at Fisher House at 7.50pm. Cost £5 (we think...)

THE GRADUATE WOMEN'S GROUP

The Group meets every Saturday in Sister Ann's room from 11.30am. Exposition in chapel from 11.00am.

DOMINICAN STUDY WEEK

27 June to 1 July at Buckfast Abbey, a week of Theological Investigation led by Dominican Friars and Sisters (including Sr Ann!). See Fisher Society FB page for more details.

CONSIDER YOUR CALL

There will be two meetings this term, for those considering priesthood and religious vocation. A simple format of prayer, listening to a speaker tell his or her story of vocation, reflection and cocoa. Thursday 28 April and Thursday 12 May, 7.30pm in the Great Chamber.

SAINTS AND SCONES

is taking a rest this term. To reconvene in the new academic year.

COLLEGE MASSES THIS TERM

Next Tuesday - a first! College Mass at St Edmund's at 6.00pm, followed by a drinks reception.

On Wednesday, Mass at Queens' College at 6.15pm. All welcome.

Other College Masses this term: Tuesday 3 May: Magdalene College, followed by Hall and punting. 6.30pm

Wednesday 4 May: St Catharine's College, followed by Formal Hall. 6.15pm

Wednesday 18 May: Trinity College, followed by Guest Table. 7.00pm

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£351.15

Thank you!