

## ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN JOY

**E**arly in his papacy, Pope Francis addressed the entire Church by way of an exhortation he called *The Joy of the Gospel*. There, he raises two themes of life which have become hallmarks of his papacy. First, regularly experiencing joy is crucial to human life well-lived. Secondly, this joy is characterized by the Christian Gospel—good news of God—which is itself a *source* of our joy in this life.

But to understand how this hope of joyfulness may be realized for us, the pope explains that the crucial link between our daily living and regular joyfulness is encounter with Jesus. So pressing, for him, is such joy that Francis puts to us a very direct request: ‘I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her’.

With the simple words ‘openness’ and ‘encounter’, the Holy Father describes for us the way that St Ignatius Loyola understands how we meet God in the ordinariness of everyday life. Always, the initiative is the Lord’s. But what we need to do is to open ourselves to the possibility that Jesus will personally encounter us, which can only happen if we decide to make ourselves available. If we decide, in both mind and heart, to look for the Lord- in our lives.

This is the origin of the oft-quoted and loosely-used Jesuit line, ‘finding God in all things’. More accurately, this saying describes the process of examination of conscience, during which one reviews the events of life, and asks the Lord to show us his traces in our day. Here, the key ingredient is what Ignatius calls the *discreta caritas*, or discerning love. It is in the experience of looking for love that we detect the very personal presence of Christ in our lives. Moreover, that experience leads us to decide in a quite deliberate and concrete way to turn ourselves to the Lord, and to open our hearts in responding to that love.

It is in this fundamental disposition of openness towards the Lord that we encounter Christ. The fruit of that loving exchange is a deep and profound joy—joy from being loved, and from encounter with the One who is all Truth. This, then, is the heart of what Pope Francis is driving at in *The Joy of the Gospel*, and why he encourages us so strongly take on that disposition of openness to personal relationship with Christ that brings so much joy.

*Fr Philip*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 25 October - 30th Sunday of the Year

### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK III

Sunday 25	<b>THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass
Monday 26	12.30	Mass
Tuesday 27	1.05	Mass
Wednesday 28	1.05	Mass Sts Simon and Jude, Apostle
	12.30	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 29	1.05	Mass Martyrs of Douai College
Friday 30	1.05	Mass
	7.30	Mass (& ‘Crumbs’)
Saturday 31	1.05	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 1	<b>ALL SAINTS</b>	
November	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ  
Also in residence: FR JOE INGUANEZ

### **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Study scripture with Fr Bruno OP, on Mondays at 8.00pm in the library. All are welcome.

### **APOLOGETICS**

The group meets on Saturdays at 7.00pm in the Library to discuss a range of controversial issues. Contact Hania Wyciszczok (hmw56) or Michael Miller (mhlm2)

### **MEDICAL ETHICS GROUP**

Meeting on Tuesdays at 8.00pm in the Library to discuss topics of special (but not exclusive) interest to medics.

### **SVP**

Meets Fridays at 6.00pm in the Fisher Room, helping those in Cambridge less fortunate than ourselves. Members go out nightly to speak with the homeless, and visits are made to local retirement homes. Contact Fiona Doherty (ftd21).

### **FOOTBALL**

There will be training on Jesus Green on Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm in preparation for the game against the Oxford chaplaincy. Contact John Darlison (jd600).

### **GRADUATE SOCIETY**

The GradSoc will meet on Wednesday at 8.00pm for a 'Theology on Tap' session led by Fr Philip. Black Swan Bar, Fisher Room - all Graduates welcome.

### **NOVEMBER HOLY SOULS**

During the month of the Holy Souls, a folder will be left outside the chapel for you to record the names of your dear and loved ones you would like to be remembered in prayer at Mass.

### **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: *The Church, the Body of Christ*.

### **ALTAR SERVERS**

If you would like to serve at Sunday or weekday Mass, please sign up outside the chapel or contact Natalia Deja (nad35).

### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

A one-day course of marriage preparation will be held at Fisher House on Saturday 21 November. This course is a requirement if you wish to be married in a Catholic ceremony. Please contact Fr Mark (ml709) if you are interested in taking part.

### **FACEBOOK & WEBSITE**

Keep up to date with announcements on the Fisher Society Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/fishersociety/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/fishersociety/) - and don't forget the Fisher House website, with its useful calendar of events [www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse](http://www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse)

### **SAINTS AND SINNERS**



Get your thinking caps on, your halos polished and your pitchforks sharpened for the annual Saints and Sinners party. Come in costume as your favourite Saint (or sinner!). Friday 31 October, 8.30pm onwards in the Black Swan bar in the Fisher Room. There will be a prize for the best costume.



### **VISITING PREACHER**

Next weekend, Fr Nick Kern (St Catharine's College 1980 - 1982) will be preaching at all Masses, and will celebrate the 11.00 Mass. Fr Nick is parish priest of St Joseph's, Birkenhead, and is a contemporary of Fr Mark's, both in Cambridge and in seminary. So he should know a thing or two ...



### **FALL INTO WINTER**

Remember - the clocks go back this weekend. An extra hour in bed; or an eerily deserted chapel ..

### **ENGLISH MASS CHOIR**

Singing at the 11.00 Mass on Sundays, with a practice on Sunday mornings at 10.00. New members always welcome. Contact Stephen Bick (sb982)

### **SCHOLA CANTORUM**

Providing Gregorian chant and polyphony for the 9.00 Latin Mass each Sunday. New members always welcome. Contact Nic Walker (nghw2) or Sam Fouts (sfouts@cord.edu).

### **FRIDAY NIGHT CHOIR**

If you are a singer or instrumentalist and would like to help in the Friday evening Mass, please contact Katie Griffin (k22r@hotmail.co.uk).

### **LOVING THE UNLOVEABLE NEIGHBOUR**

Celia Hacking will discuss her work as chaplain at Whitmoor Maximum Security Prison, on Tuesday 27 October, 7.00pm at Margaret Beaufort Institute, 12 Grange Road. All welcome.

### **SAINT AND SCONES**

In Sr Ann's room, 4.30pm Sunday. Come and hear about Saint Benedict and warm your toes by the fire. All Welcome.

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

£534.79

Thank you!