

HAIL REDEEMER, KING DIVINE!

This weekend, we celebrate a feast for rebels. That might sound surprising. Sunday is the great Solemnity of Christ the King, and royalty conjures up images of sumptuous wealth, establishment privilege, and unthinking, maybe fearful, knee-jerk obedience to the powers-that-be. All this has often been true of earthly monarchy, of course – but this King is different.

In comparison with much of the Church's calendar, Christ the King is a recent innovation, instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925. It was a turbulent time in international politics, and consequently in the life of the Church, and the new feast spoke to that situation. Christians in some parts of the world – the Mexico of Grahame Greene's *The Power and the Glory* for instance – were doubtless comforted by the thought that Christ, the King who conquered death, would be victorious over the forces that oppressed them. At least as important, with the rise of totalitarian dictatorships of left and right in Europe, was the reminder that we owe absolute allegiance to no one and nothing less than Christ himself. Neither party, nor state, nor nation nor political leader, no matter how charismatic and persuasive, should ever hold absolute sway over the hearts of those made in God's image. Christ alone should rule there and compel our obedience.

But isn't obedience destructive of human flourishing, whoever asks it of us? Not if it is *this* King that we serve. The readings the Church gives us for the feast provide some hints here. This Sunday, the gospel tells us that God was not content to Lord it over us in splendid isolation, but, in Christ, became one of us, so much one of us that in our care for our neighbours in their most basic needs for food, drink, shelter and companionship, we are serving him. In other years, we are shown the strange picture of a King whose throne is the cross and whose crown is woven of thorns. Even unspeakable suffering, then, doesn't have to destroy our God-given dignity, since Christ our King came to share it and triumph over it. As the old hymn puts it, the one who is Lord of life, earth, sky and sea is also the King of Love on Calvary. Providing we use only his weapons, the weapons of justice and gentleness, in making this known, *that* is a cause worth fighting for.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 26 November: CHRIST THE KING

CALENDAR: WEEK VIII OF TERM

Sunday 26	CHRIST THE KING 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 27	1.05 Mass
Tuesday 28	1.05 Mass
Wednesday 29	1.05 Mass 12.30 <i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 30	1.05 Mass
Friday 1 December	1.05 Mass <i>No Exposition this evening</i>
Saturday 2	1.05 Mass 4.30 - 5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 3	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass



Fr Mark, Sr Ann and Fr Philip
wish you a blessed and happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year.



TUESDAY TALKS: APOLOGIA

This week, Fr Aidan Nichols OP will speak on the *Trinity and Christology*. Dinner is served at 7.00pm, and the talk takes place at 7.45pm, followed by Compline and Bar. All are welcome.

FISHER HOUSE RETREAT

Please keep in your prayers sister Ann and the twenty two students who will be on retreat from 3 - 6 December At Mount St Bernard Abbey.

MASS AT CHRISTMAS

1.05pm Weekday Mass will continue until Christmas. Sunday Mass at 10.30am (from 10 December).

Sunday 24 Dec Advent IV
Mass at 10.30am

MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS

Begins at 11.45pm

MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am
Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27
NO MASS

Thursday 28
11.00am Wedding of Grace and Greg.

Friday 29, Saturday 30
NO MASS

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Yes, yes, it's before Christmas, it's even before Advent - but the calendar means that this year our Christmas party will take place on Friday 1 December from 6.00pm till late (after the Carol Singing). During the party, the Fisher Room and library will be decked in Christmas array!

CAKE SALE

The cake sale last week raised £92.23 The Book Sale raised £57. Thank you to everyone who came, but most especially to the Beer family for producing the delicious baked goods! Money goes to the Cambridge Churches' Homeless Project.

ADMISSION CAP ON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic Schools were founded by the Catholic community to educate our children in the faith. Government proposals mean that it will be impossible to continue with this vision. Please see the important notice outside the chapel to see how you can help.

GIVING TREE



The SVP's traditional 'Giving Tree' has arrived, encouraging us to buy a gift for a homeless person over Christmas. PRESENTS MUST BE PLACED UNDER THE TREE BY THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER.

CAROL SINGING



As usual, we shall be singing carols for the SVP on Friday 1 December, from 3.00pm—5.00pm in the Grand Arcade. Rehearsal from 2.30pm in the Fisher Room. Come and join the fun, even if you can't be there for the whole two hours!

VACATION MASS TIMES

Next Sunday, 1 December, Mass times are at usual term times: (6.00pm Vigil, 9.00am Latin, 11.00 English). From 10 December there will be Mass only at 10.30am.

THE FISHER HOUSE PANTOMIME!



On Thursday 30 November at 4.00pm members of Fisher House (senior and junior) will perform *Dick Whittington and his cat*, a traditional family pantomime, at Cripps Court, Chesterton Road, Magdalene College. Admission free. Come along to cheer our hero, Dick Whittington, sigh at the beautiful maid Alice, boo the villainous Grand Vizier, hiss the Rat King. See some surprising members treading the boards - and enjoy some good old panto humour!

GRADSOC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 9 December at 7.00pm. Watch the Facebook page for details.

SENIOR MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

We welcome senior members and their families to a party on Thursday 14 December at 7.30pm in the Great Chamber.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£381.46

Thank you!