

LENTEN JOY!

We tend to think of Lent as the miserable period in the Church's calendar, and understandably: we begin the season by wearing ashes in remembrance of our own mortality and end it by retracing the steps of Jesus to the Cross; the Church encourages us to reflect on our distance from God and to address the root causes of our sinfulness by the uncomfortable means of prayer, fasting and almsgiving; we sing more restrained music at Mass and the priest wears sombre purple. But this is very far from being the whole story: the breviary talks of "this joyful season" of Lent, and, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, nature seems to confirm this: signs of new life are everywhere as the darkness of winter gradually gives way to the radiance of spring.

Here are some challenging but wise words about how to find joy in our observance of Lent, to see it not as a burden but as a gift, from a great spiritual writer of the last century:

Humility and joy go together. If we think of the sacrifices we make as something that we are doing, of ourselves, we are going in the wrong direction, and in the effort to live up to the plan we have set ourselves, we may well become thin-lipped, gloomy, hard. St Francis, when he gave up everything to God, even his clothes, burst into song; because his nakedness was not a feat of human endurance, but a liberation of spirit, a falling into the arms of God. (From the Son's Course, by Gerald Vann, OP)

This is a cause of real joy, especially for those of us who habitually fail to stick to the good resolutions we make on Ash Wednesday. The point of all our penance, our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, is not to earn God's favour, but to remind ourselves of our need for God's healing, our longing, to fall, like St Francis, into the arms of the God who is our heart's desire. And that is shown up particularly clearly when we fall short of our self-imposed goals, because it is then that we can ask God to pick us up again. In his mercy, he always will.

An ancient Lenten hymn puts it very well:

The day is come, the accepted day
When grace like nature flowers anew
Trained by thy hand a surer way
Rejoice we in our spring time too.

Have a holy – and a happy – Lent!

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 26 February: 8th Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR: WEEK VI OF TERM

Sunday 26 February	8th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00 11.00	Sung Latin Mass Sung English Mass
Monday 27	12.30	Mass
Tuesday 28	1.05	Mass
Wednesday 1 March	8.00 1.05 6.00	Mass with distribution of Ashes Mass with distribution of Ashes Mass with distribution of Ashes
Thursday 2	1.05	Mass
Friday 3	12.30 1.05 7.30	Stations of the Cross Mass Compline and Reflection
Saturday 4	1.05 4.30 - 5.30 6.00	Mass (EF) <i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 5	1st SUNDAY OF LENT 9.00 11.00	Sung Latin Mass Sung English Mass

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, *Lent: the Great Fast*.

WELCOME FR CLARENCE!

We welcome to the 11.00 Mass, and indeed to Cambridge, Fr Clarence Devadass, who is studying for a year at St Edmund's College. Fr Clarence is from Malaysia, and we hope to see a good deal of him at Fisher House!

LEARN ITALIAN IN THE SUMMER

A summer camp experience, in Reggio Calabria, for a group of about 10 students from the Cambridge and Oxford Catholic Chaplaincy to learn Italian and experience Italian culture (and cooking!). Please contact Fr Mark (ml709) if interested.

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).

EXPOSITION

There will be no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday.

PANCAKE PARTY



Come and eat your fill of pancakes, both sweet and savoury, on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Fisher Room. £1 per pancake.

ROBINSON COLLEGE MASS

Mass will be celebrated at 6.30pm at Robinson College on Tuesday 7 March. If you have never seen the Piper window in the chapel, you're in for a treat! A more earthly treat will be provided for those who wish to attend Formal Hall after Mass. Sign up by Thursday 2 March: email Edward Butler-Caddle (eb598) or sign up on the list outside chapel.

QUEENS' COLLEGE MASS

Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 8 March.

SR ANN

is away this weekend, and so there will be no Saints & Scones this afternoon.

ASH WEDNESDAY: LUNCH

Mass with distribution of ashes at 8.00am, 1.05pm, 6.00pm. A simple soup lunch will be available after the 1.05pm Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations will be celebrated at 12.30 on Fridays during Lent.

SENIOR MEMBERS' LENT READING GROUP

We will meet at 6.00pm in the Great Chamber on Thursday in Lent, starting 9 March, to read '*Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a culture stripped of grace*' by Miroslav Volf. Copies, costing £7.99, can be ordered through Fr Mark by signing up on the sheet outside chapel.

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.

INTERFAITH EVENT

On Monday, the CU Jewish society will host a bible study panel session, on the Book of Esther, at 3 Thompson's Lane, 7.30pm. Please contact Krzysztof Zamarski (kpz20).

SVP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul grounds its activity on the streets of Cambridge in prayer and reflection. Join them on Fridays in the Fisher Room at 6.00pm.

BOOK SALE

After 11.00am Mass today, in the Fisher Room. Proceeds will go to HCPT Group 104, the Fisher House



chapter of the charity that takes disabled children to Lourdes.

FOOTBALLING HONOUR

For two years, the More/Fisher trophy has adorned the Black Swan bar. Now the Oxford chaplaincy wants it back. You can stop them: sign up for the Fisher House football team outside the chapel, or contact our team captain Nic Walker (nghw2).

MADONNAS & MIRACLES

Don't miss this exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum, opening on 7 March, which looks at the hidden world of devotion in the Italian renaissance home.

LUNCH

is available Monday to Friday in the Fisher Room, priced only £2.50.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£505.45

Thank you!