

## HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE!

Whichever way you look at it, the Ascension seems an odd sort of a feast. At first sight, it commemorates a leave-taking; the dramatic departure of the Lord from the community which had so recently welcomed him back into their midst after his Passion and death. Psychological common sense would suggest, surely, that confusion and trauma, rather than rejoicing, would have been the disciples' reaction, and there doesn't seem much to celebrate in that. Still more strangely, according to St Luke's account, the disciples are called to account for what seems to be a perfectly normal response to a decidedly abnormal state of affairs: they are asked why they are standing gazing into heaven after the disappearing Lord. What else would we expect them to do? Perhaps the key to understanding all this is to realise that this feast is intended, not to emphasise our increasing distance from Jesus, as he ascends *far above yon azure height*, but, rather, to remind us of his abiding closeness to us. It is a feast not of desolation and absence, but of consolation and presence. If we are members of his body, even after his ascension Christ is inseparably united to us, closer to us than we are to ourselves, present with us not only in all our joys and festivity but also in all our sorrows and anxiety. This unity between us and Christ gives us confidence for the future: if Jesus really is the head of his body, the Church, his entrance into heaven surely gives us grounds to hope that this will one day be our destiny too. And, paradoxically, that helps, perhaps, to make sense of that odd injunction to the disciples not to stand around staring into the bright blue yonder. Christ will return one day in glory, as we proclaim Sunday by Sunday in the Creed at Mass, and then indeed he will take his friends to be with him where he is. But, in the meantime, there is work to be done, in the strength of his Spirit and for his sake; the work of being his body, his presence, in the world he loved and came to save.

*Sr Ann*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28 May: Ascension of the Lord

### CALENDAR: WEEK IV OF TERM

Sunday 28	<b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass	
Monday 29	1.05 Mass	
Tuesday 30	1.05 Mass	
Wednesday 31	1.05 Mass 12.30 <i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Thursday 1 June	1.05 Mass	<i>St Justin Martyr</i>
Friday 2	12.30 Mass 7.30 <i>Compline</i>	<i>Sts Marcellinus, Peter</i>
Saturday 3	1.05 Mass (EF) 4.30 - 5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday	<i>St Charles Lwanga</i>
Sunday 4	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass	

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

## SYNOD YOUTH POLL

In preparation for the 2018 General Synod in Rome on 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment', Pope Francis has asked for consultation with young people. The Bishops of England and Wales have issued an online survey and it would be good for you to take part:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cathnews-synod-youth-poll](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cathnews-synod-youth-poll)

## MORNING PRAYER

continues for the exam period, at 8.00am. It is a great way to start a good day's revision.

## COMPLINE

At 7.30pm on Fridays, the perfect moment to end the week at this busy time.

## COLLEGE REPS



If you are leaving Cambridge this year, please nominate another rep for your College and let Fr Mark know.

## MASS AT CAIUS COLLEGE

A Missa Cantata (Tridentine rite) in honour of the Catholic martyrs of Gonville and Caius College will be celebrated in Caius College Chapel at 5.30pm on Wednesday 7th June. The Celebrant will be Fr. Alban McCoy, OFM, Conv. Dean of St Edmund's College, and the Preacher will be Professor Richard Rex.

## MAGDALENE VESPERS

Benedictine Monks return to Magdalene after some 500 years to sing Vespers this evening at 6.00pm. It will be crowded, so come early!

## CASTLE ACRE AND OXBURGH HALL

A day trip by coach to see a magnificent monastic ruin and a 15th century moated house (with priest's hole). Saturday 24 June, cost £12. Please sign up outside if interested.

## GRADSOC

The GradSoc meets next Wednesday (31 May), for Formal Hall at St John's College. Contact Lydia (lch46).

## ... AND MORE ....

The weekly GradSoc thesis and dissertation (or generally study) support group/workshop/stress relief session meets on Thursday at 3.00pm in the Fisher Room for tea, biscuits and a shoulder to cry on.

## THE FISHER DINNER

Only a few tickets remain for our main social event of the year, on Thursday 15 June. Ticket prices are £35 for dinner with wine, £29 for just dinner. Sign up either online via the Fisher Society Facebook page, or on the sheet outside the chapel.

The Dinner will of course be followed by the all-night Fisher Party - an extravaganza of games, music, dancing, entertainment and gelato!

## CAMBRIDGE STREET PASTORS

Every Friday and Saturday night, volunteer Street Pastors help anyone on our streets in any kind of distress. They do magnificent work getting students out of trouble, and helping to make Cambridge city centre a safer place. We shall have a collection for their work next week.

## NEW CARD SYSTEM

We are currently uploading names on to the new system. It will take a few weeks to put all the names on the system, and the card entry will not operate until then.

Access to the chapel will still be by the code system at the main doors. To get to daily Mass, you need do nothing different. On Sunday mornings, access to the Fisher Room will be open to all.

## FILM NIGHT

On Sunday, 8.00pm in the Fisher Room, *The Way*, the moving and inspiring tale of one man's redemption as he follows the Camino de Santiago. Martin Sheen takes a break from the *West Wing* to star. Bring and share snacks.

## BLACK SWAN BAR

Open on Friday, in the Fisher Room following Compline, with an extraordinary selection of craft beers, gins and whisk(e)y.

## BOOK RECALL



Please return any books you have borrowed from the library before the end of term.

## TEA AND SYMPATHY

There will be tea and cakes available on Tuesday in the Fisher Room at 4.00pm.

And don't forget Sr Ann's open office on Friday; drop in for tea and a chat (and lots of cake) at any time between 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

## COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£401.88

Thank you!