

## NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISETH

One of the marks of becoming an old man is an increased interest in gardening. Somewhat to my surprise (and amusement), I now find it the height of excitement to visit a gardening centre (Scotsdales in Great Shelford is my favourite, but at a pinch the Coton Orchard will do) and gaze in fascination at the perennials, bushes, succulents, climbers and fruit trees with the same thrill with which I used to hike across the Yorkshire Moors. And of course, all that excitement requires a sit down and a nice cup of tea and a scone in the cafeteria. Don't mock. It will come to you all.

This year, I noticed something new about myself in February and March. I was looking forward to the appearance of buds and leaves on the plants with as much excitement as I always anticipate Christmas. I was genuinely thrilled to see the first signs of returning life, to recognise the vestiges of colour, the way that barren twigs sprout buds and new shoots. It really is exciting.

And that made me realise something that, I suppose, is obvious. That it is no accident that Easter occurs at this time of year, that we celebrate our new life in Christ just as nature gives us a lesson in the return of life. More than that: the dead looking twigs, the bare branches, contain within them the seeds of that new life. The bud that forms has within it the potential to grow into a flower, a leaf, a glorious display. Christ's death was a real death, but it contains the seeds of what is to come: in obedience to the Father, love allows itself to be crucified, but that same obedience brings death back to life. As John's Gospel has it: *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

Cambridge is at its most beautiful in its spring array. Enjoy it, and read in it the gospel of our salvation, delightfully set before us by nature itself.

*Fr Mark, Sr Ann, Fr Philip wish you a blessed and successful term ahead.*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 30 April: 3rd Sunday of Easter

### CALENDAR: WEEK I OF TERM

Sunday 30	<b>3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 1 May	12.00 <b>THE FISHER MASS</b> Great St Mary. Academic dress to be worn.
Tuesday 2	1.05 Mass <i>St Athanasius</i>
Wednesday 3	1.05 Mass <i>St Philip and St James</i> 12.30 <i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 4	<b>No Mass</b> <i>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</i>
Friday 5	12.30 Mass 7.30 <i>Compline</i>
Saturday 6	1.05 Mass (EF) 4.30 - 5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 7	<b>4th SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass Cel: Bishop Alan Hopes

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

## **CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOS**

Moving to Fridays: a short talk on varied aspects of the Catholic faith, over lunch. 1.15pm. This week, Fr Mark on 'The book of the Apocalypse'

## **WEEKDAY LUNCH**

Available Monday to Friday in the Fisher Room following Mass, price £1.50.

## **SEEKING ACCOMMODATION**

Two requests have come from foreign students arriving in Cambridge this summer for periods of study, both seeking a Catholic house/family to lodge with:

Marie Roser, 19 June 2017 to 15 Sep 2017.

Tim Klein, Aug/Sep 2017 to Oct 2018.

Please contact Fr Mark if able to help.

## **LEARN ITALIAN IN THE SUMMER**

A final call for those interested in summer camp experience, in Reggio Calabria, to learn Italian and experience Italian culture (and cooking!). 22 August-5 September. Please contact Fr Mark (ml709) if interested.

## **COMPLINE**

Every Friday evening in the

## **TERMCARDS**

If you are a College Rep, please take the bundle of cards for your college, from outside the chapel.

## **GRADSOC**

The GradSoc termcard will be available soon. Next Wednesday (3 May), we're planning to attend a Salsa class. If you've not received an email, contact Lydia (lch46).

This term, we are setting up a once-weekly GradSoc thesis and dissertation (or generally study) support group/workshop/stress relief session. Again, contact Lydia, if you haven't received an email.

## **FISHER BITES**

On Thursday, Dr Robert Miller of the Catholic University of America will speak on *Mary in the Scriptures* at 8.00pm in the Great Chamber. Ring the doorbell of the old house. Wine provided.

## **BISHOP ALAN HOPES**

The Bishop of the Diocese of East Anglia will celebrate the 11.00am Mass next Sunday.

## **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)**

This tremendous Catholic charity supports Christians persecuted or terrorised throughout the world. ACN is looking for a student who might serve as a rep. for a Cambridge branch of the ACN. If interested, please contact Fr Mark (ml709).

## **FISHER MASS**

On Monday at 12.00 noon, in we celebrate the climax of our religious year, the Feast of St John Fisher - in Great St Mary, which was rebuilt while St John was Chancellor of the University. The preacher will be Dom Erik Varden, Abbot of Mount St Bernard, and a Cambridge alumnus. Academic dress to be worn: Doctors wear Scarlet. Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch back at Fisher House. All are welcome.

## **THURSDAY 4 MAY**

The Fisher Room is being used for local elections, and so unfortunately there will be no Mass that day. Access to the library will be by the front door of the old house (and via mobile 'phone!).

## **NEW CARD SYSTEM**

In a major upgrade to security, a card access system will be fitted this week to the Fisher Room. Anyone who is a member of the University with a University Card will automatically be enrolled in the new system. If we do not have your CRSID we cannot add you to the system: please make sure that the chaplains, or your College rep has it.

Access to the chapel will still be by the code system at the main doors. For access to Mass, you need do nothing.

## **FILM NIGHT**

On Sunday, 8.00pm in the Fisher Room, Robert Bolt's classic play, *A Man for All Seasons*, with Fred Zimmerman's Oscar-winning direction, on the life and death of Thomas More. 50p entry. Popcorn provided.

## **CAROLINE DIVINE READING GROUP**

Meeting on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.00pm in the Great Chamber, to discuss the writings of these great 17th century theologians. Contact Michael Miller (mhl2).

## **MADONNAS & MIRACLES**

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

## **BLACK SWAN BAR**

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

## **KOLB FUND**

A fund making grants to Catholic women for a variety of purposes, including study materials and travel. Please see the Kolb Memorial Trust page on the

## **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

**£473.30**

Thank you!