

HIGH HOPES FOR THE SYNOD

Tomorrow, in Rome, there commences the Synod on the family. Expectations are high, perhaps unrealistically so, that there will be some accommodation made so that those who are in second marriages (with their first partners still alive) might be admitted to Holy Communion. As you know, those who are divorced and remarried are not permitted to take the Sacrament.

News reports have swirled around the possibility of change in the new era of Pope Francis; it is pointed out that this is an issue affecting a growing number of families, and that a generation of children is growing up that has never seen their parents received Holy Communion. To this is objected the fact that few moral teachings carry such authority as the prohibition on divorce: it is our Lord himself who forbids it. The opposing arguments have become personalised around the considerable figures of Cardinal Kasper, the noted German theologian whom Pope Francis quoted at his first audience, and Cardinal Burke, the American Canon Lawyer and head of the Vatican department that deals with marriage nullity.

What seems to be in play is not a suggestion that the theology of marriage could change, or even that divorce might be seen as an acceptable option - Church teaching on the sanctity of the marriage bond is unassailable - but rather the pastoral approach might be adopted to the situation of a marriage breakdown.

However, it will be sad if the Synod is reduced to a single issue, however pressing. The bishops and theologians from around the world will seek to sustain and strengthen the institution which is at the heart of our civilization, which is the measure of its health, and which is so comprehensively under attack. Pope Francis said last week, "Happy families are essential for the Church and for society". Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the Synod fathers (and mothers!), so that the Synod may truly be an inspiring and instructive moment in the life of the Church

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 5 October - 27th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

CALENDAR

Sunday 5	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 10.30 Mass
Monday 6	12.30 Mass St Bruno
Tuesday 7	1.05 Mass Our Lady of the Rosary <i>FULL TERM BEGINS</i>
Wednesday 8	1.05 Mass 12.30 <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 9	1.05 Funeral Mass Bl. John Henry Newman <i>Funeral Mass of Elizabeth Carey</i>
Friday 10	1.05 Mass St John Bosco 7.30 Mass
Saturday 11	1.05 Mass Bl. Pope John XXIII 4.30—5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 12	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR <i>No Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) this week</i> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass

TERM CARDS

Term cards are available this week— please take one.

FRIDAY 7.30pm MASS

This celebration of Mass in a more informal style will recommence on Friday, with the Black Swan bar open afterwards.

CRUMBS ON FRIDAY

- but before you head off to the Black Swan, a three-minute explanation of things we do, but don't know why we do them. This week: Fr Mark on *What a Synod?*

FISHER HOUSE LIBRARY

There is now a Catholic Fiction section of the library—do explore! The library is open whenever Fisher House is, and all undergraduate and graduate students are welcome.

WEBSITE

Check out the new Fisher House website, and its many sections! We hope to expand it further during the coming months.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

We need to re-establish a rota to count the Sunday collection every week—including during vacation. This can be done at any time from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday. If

MASS TIMETABLE

Mass on Monday is at 1.05pm; thereafter it will be at 12.30pm, to allow *Catholicism for the Curious* to follow over lunch. The normal term time Sunday Mass schedule recommences next Sunday, 12 October, with the Freshers' Mass followed by a reception. The 8.00pm Extraordinary Form Mass will recommence on 19 October.

FRESHERS' EVENTS

- Tuesday 7/Wednesday 8: **Societies' Fair**, Kelsey Ker-ridge. Look out for the Fisher House stand.
- Sunday 12 October: **Welcome Mass**, 11.00am, followed by buffet lunch.
- Friday 17 October: **Freshers' Mass**, 7.30pm, followed by **Fisher House Societies' Fair** and Bar night.
- Sunday 19 October: **Mass** followed by cooked lunch, free for Freshers.

GRADUATE SOCIETY

Drinks for welcome Graduates to the new academic year, in the Great Chamber, 8.00pm, Wednesday 15 October.

COLLEGE REPS

There will be drinks for all Fisher House College Reps in the Great

CONGRATULATIONS

Bishop John Arnold, the Bishop responsible for the Cambridge and Oxford chaplaincies, has been nominated Bishop of Salford. Although an Oxford man (hem, hem) he has been a great friend to the chaplaincy, and it is good that he will continue to take a lively interest in Fisher House! Bishop John will visit Fisher House later this term.

THE BLACKFRIARS STUDY GROUP

A lay-led group meeting once a term at Blackfriars on Buckingham Road. The group studies an article, which has been circulated beforehand. The next meeting, to discuss the paper "If Philosophy begins in Wonder" is on Wednesday 29 October, 7.30—9.30pm. Please see the poster outside the chapel for further details.

ROSARY LEGION OF MARY

The Rosary is prayed in the Chapel on Saturdays at 5.30pm, Sundays after the 11am Mass, and Tuesdays and Thursdays after 1.05pm Mass. FisherHouseRosary@gmail.com

FISHER BITES

The chaplaincy counts among its members some extraordinary academic authorities. *Fisher Bites* will be an occasional series of informal

FUNERAL MASS

The Requiem for Elizabeth Carey will take place on Thursday at the 1.05 Mass. All are welcome—Elizabeth was a regular at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Meets every Thursday at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room, helping those in Cambridge less fortunate than ourselves. Contact Fiona Doherty (ftd21)

LUNCH is available in the Fisher Room every weekday during term, for £1.50.

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 Jonathan Schranz (js2041)

COLLEGE MASSES

Queens' 29 October 6.16pm

COLLECTION LAST WEEK £419.80
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