

# Memento Homo

The lavish procession wound its way through the Roman streets, onto the Via Sacra that would take it up to the temple of Jupiter. Senators, in their most formal togas, captive kings and their families, glistening treasure and the spoils of war were all paraded. This was a Roman Triumph, awarded to victorious generals, and at the climax of the parade came the triumphant general or (usually) Emperor, riding in a dazzling *biga*, or chariot, steered by a slave. Another slave stood behind him, holding above his head the gilded laurel wreath - but this slave also had another task. As the triumphant victor was driven through the massed crowds of applauding Romans, this slave was charged to whisper repeatedly in the ear of the Emperor: *Heed not the shouts of the crowd. You are mortal, and this will pass.*

This week, we too will hear a stark reminder of our humanity, a message that sets all our pride and earthly glory at naught, all our plans, our schemes, hopes, fears, desires and possessions: *Remember man, remember woman, that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.*

There is no running away from this. No shading, and no arguing. It is a bleak reminder of our human condition, and our provisional nature. We shall die, and the greatest of us and the least of us shall lie together as dust. That dread thought pulls us up short, it chills our bones. It casts its shadow over every dream and desire.

Yet, of course, it is not an absolute end, an annihilation. To be reminded of our mortality is also to be reminded that Christ has taken up that mortality and shared its death, only to rise again and to conquer that finality. In Christ the grave may own us, but only for a while, for that dust shall rise again to newness of life with him.

Nevertheless, it is good to begin our Lent with a reminder that we are not self-sufficient. If we can start to be real about that, then perhaps we can start to be real about our need for God.

*Fr Mark*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 7th February - 5TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK IV

Sunday 7	FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 8	12.30pm	Mass	
Tuesday 9	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 10	8.00am 1.05 pm, 6.00pm Masses	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	
		<i>No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Thursday 11	1.05pm	Mass	(Our Lady of Lourdes)
Friday 12	1.05pm	Mass	
	6.45pm	Stations of the Cross	
	7.30pm	Mass	
Saturday 13	1.05	Mass in EF	
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 14	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	

### **FISHER COMMITTEE**

The new committee will be elected this weekend. We thank them for their generosity and wish them well!

### **MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS: LISTENERS FOR THE WORD**

Fr Dan Madigan SJ will deliver a lecture at Fisher House on Tuesday 16 February at 8.00pm.

### **INTERFAITH/ECUMENICAL MATTERS**

If you would like to be kept abreast of interfaith and ecumenical news and events at Fisher House, you can join the mailing list by emailing Francesca at fcnf2.

### **SCRIPTURE STUDY**

On Monday at 7.30pm in the Library, Fr Bruno will continue his exploration of the scriptures. All welcome.

### **COMMUNION & LIBERATION**

Meetings every Tuesday at 9 pm in the music room at the parish centre of OLEM. See poster outside chapel for details.

### **BOOK SALE**

The book sale last week raised £40 for CAFOD. Many thanks!

### **COMPLINE**

A new student-led initiative: Compline will be sung in chapel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9.00pm, and Fridays at 9.30pm. All are most welcome, and it begins on Ash Wednesday.

### **CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS**

A series of talks over lunch on Monday, given by Fr Mark. This week: *'Spotlight' and child abuse within the Catholic Church.*

### **CONFIRMATION**

Cardinal Cormac will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on 28 February. If you would like to be confirmed, please give your details to one of the chaplains.

### **PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM**

In each diocese, there has been designated a 'Door of Mercy', and the ancient shrine of Walsingham has one. There will be a day pilgrimage to Walsingham on 14 March, with Mass, a talk by the shrine Rector, and a visit to the ruins of the medieval priory. Cost £10. Please let Fr Mark know on ml709.

### **YEAR OF MERCY**

Available outside the chapel: *53 ways to show Mercy during this year* - a useful practical guide.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Masses with imposition of ashes at 8.00am, 1.05pm, 6.00pm. This is a day of fasting and abstinence; we should eat no meat, and have only one main meal. There is a soup lunch in the Fisher Room following 1.05pm Mass.

### **PALM BRANCHES**

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, please bring in your palm branches from last year by Monday, so that they can be burned!

### **PANCAKE PARTY**

The inevitable Carnevale of excessive consumption of pancakes begins at 7.00pm on Tuesday in the Fisher Room.

### **FAMILY MASS**

On Sunday 14 February at 4.00pm, do come and join us as Fr Mark will celebrate a Family Mass for all young families associated with the chaplaincy.

### **DANTE CIRCLE**

The second Dante meeting this term takes place on Tuesday in the Great Chamber at 6.00pm. Professor Kirkpatrick will lead us in considering *Dante: The Body Glorified*. Texts provided and no knowledge of Italian necessary. All welcome.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The children's liturgy begins this week at the 11.00am Mass. Children are taken to the Fisher Room for a reading of the gospel and activities., and rejoin the congregation at the Offertory. Parents are welcome to join in!

### **SAINTS AND SCONES**

4.30pm on Sunday in Sr Ann's room is the time and place to relax with a delicious Devon cream tea, and learn about the lives of the saints. *This week - Mercy for the outcast: St Damien the Leper (Damien of Molokai).*

### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

There will be a one-day course of marriage preparation on Saturday 12 March. This is a requirement for those wishing to marry in Church. Please see Fr Mark if interested.

### **CATHOLIC INTERNSHIP**

Graduates interested in the Parliamentary and Public Policy internship should see the poster outside the chapel.

**COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

£362.41

*Thank you!*