

# HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE

Whichever way you look at it, the Ascension seems like an odd sort of a feast.

At first sight, after all, it commemorates a leaving-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, perhaps, according to St Luke's account in the Acts of the Apostles, 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. But why ever shouldn't they? 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" as the hymn puts it, 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. As St Augustine puts it: "*Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body have to bear*".

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 8 MAY - ASCENSION OF THE LORD

### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK III

Sunday 8	ASCENSION OF THE LORD	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass
Monday 9	12.30	Mass
Tuesday 10	1.05	Mass
Wednesday 11	1.05	Mass
	12.30	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 12	1.05	Mass
Friday 13	1.05, 7.30	Mass
Saturday 14	1.05	Mass St Mathias, Apostle in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 15	PENTECOST SUNDAY	
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ

## **CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS**

An informal talk on an aspect of the Catholic faith given by Fr Mark over lunch on Monday at 1.15pm in the Fisher Room. This week: *Can we believe in a Just War?*

## **MARCH FOR LIFE**

A coach will be headed to the Pro-Life Festival at Birmingham on Saturday May 14, cost £20/£15. Book now! Visit: [bit.do/march4lifecambridge](http://bit.do/march4lifecambridge) For more details, contact Ed Smith [edsmith@gmail.com](mailto:edsmith@gmail.com), 07897194483 or Grace Langford (gl359)

## **LUNCH**

A simple but convivial lunch is provided daily in the Fisher Room, from 1.00pm. This will continue throughout the week. From Monday 16 May, breakfast will be available, following Lauds (Morning Prayer) at 8.00am.

## **SR ANN'S OPEN OFFICE**

Cast off the shackles of revision. Sr Ann's office is open at 3.00pm on Friday to feed your mind and body with tea and cakes.

## **KOLB FUND**

Grants of up to £500 for Catholic women students at Cambridge University. Grants may be applied for the cost of books or equipment, travel (particularly if related to your studies) or medical expenses. Grants are made towards the end of Easter term, and the deadline for applications is 13 May. Please see the noticeboard for details of how to apply, or visit the Kolb Fund page on the Fisher House website.

## **COLLEGE MASS**

Wednesday 18 May: Trinity College Chapel, 7.00pm followed by drinks.

## **WONDEOS**

If you are travelling this summer, and looking for accommodation, try [www.wondeos.com](http://www.wondeos.com) - a site developed by one of our students which finds hotel rooms at the lowest possible rate, but also donates to charity - in this case Mary's Meals (for information see [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)). It is a wonderful way to donate to charity.

## **FRIDAY EVENING MASS**

7.30pm each Friday. Come and stay for the bar afterwards! We always need help with music, meeting at 6.30pm downstairs in the house.

## **CONSIDER YOUR CALL**

A group for anyone considering priesthood or religious life; a reflective session of prayer, questions and shared experience. Thursday 12 May, 7.30pm Great Chamber.

## **COMPLINE**

This has been a very worthwhile development in the life of Fisher House. We wish to continue it, and are asking for a rota of people to lead it - please sign up on the list outside the chapel.

## **THE GRADUATE WOMEN'S GROUP**

The Group meets every Saturday in Sister Ann's room from 11.30am. Exposition in chapel from 11.00am.

## **FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Fisher House Garden Party. Thursday 16 June, 3.00pm, at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Grange Road.

## **ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

Jesus College will hold an ecumenical service of music and readings, based on the the Taizé community, on Thursday 2 June at 6.15pm. All are welcome.

## **SVP**

Reaching out to the homeless and marginalised in Cambridge. Meeting in the Fisher Room, Friday 6.00pm

## **ALTAR SERVERS**

We need more altar servers at all Masses, both Sunday and weekday. Training given. Keudos assured. Contact Felipe on fc379.

## **DOMINICAN STUDY WEEK**

27 June to 1 July at Buckfast Abbey, a week of Theological Investigation led by Dominican Friars and Sisters (including Sr Ann!). See Fisher Society FB page for more details.

## **FLAME CONFERENCE 2017**

Fisher house is hoping to send a contingent to the FLAME conference on 11th March 2017 (in the Wembley arena). Details are on the CYMFED website at [cymfed.org.uk/flame2017/](http://cymfed.org.uk/flame2017/). If you are interested, do sign up on the sheet outside the chapel (just to indicate interest and to receive updates, confirmation of attendance later on). Estimated cost is £18 + transport (to be confirmed at a later date). Questions may be directed to Justin Ng (yhjn2).

## **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

£338.53

*Thank you!*