

THE QUALITY OF MERCY

Pope Francis has continued to surprise, and this week's announcement of a Jubilee Year of Mercy is certainly in that category. In other respects, however, it is a confirmation of the direction in which he has steered the Church - he has already been hailed as the 'Pope of Mercy'. During his very first Angelus message, he had said, "Let us not forget that God forgives and always forgives". This week he spoke of Mercy as transforming the Church and the world:

I am convinced that the whole Church — which has much need to receive mercy, because we are sinners — will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time".

The Pope has accompanied this announcement with a sustained call to make use of the Sacrament of Mercy, Confession or Penance. He emphasises that God loves us all the time, even when we sin; indeed, especially when we sin. He means that, like a loving mother, God has an especial tenderness for those of her children who get into trouble or stray from the path. The biblical theme the Pope has chosen for the jubilee year is "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," something that Pope Francis said applies especially to priests who hear confessions. A major theme of the Jubilee Year will be wider access to, and appreciation of, the Sacrament of Penance.

The tradition of Holy Years started 700 years ago. Since then, the Catholic Church has celebrated 26 jubilees. Of those, only three have been "extraordinary" (including this one called by Pope Francis); the last was called by Pope St John Paul II in 1983 to mark 1,950 years after the death of Jesus.

Fr Mark

Fr Mark, Sister Ann and Ryan wish you all
a restful vacation
and a blessed Holy Week and Easter



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 15 March - 4th Sunday of Lent (*Laetare*)

CALENDAR

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| Sunday 15 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT |
| 9.00 | Sung Latin Mass |
| 11.00 | Sung English Mass |
| Monday 16 | 1.05 Mass |
| Tuesday 17 | 1.05 Mass St Patrick |
| Wednesday 18 | 1.05 Mass St Cyril of Jerusalem 12.30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Thursday 19 | 1.05 Mass St Joseph |
| Friday 20 | 1.05 Mass 12.30pm Stations of the cross |
| Saturday 21 | 1.05 Mass 4.30—5.30 Confessions No Vigil Mass of Sunday |
| Sunday 22 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT |
| 10.30 | Sung English Mass |

MEDITATIONS FROM FISHER HOUSE

The poems and meditations written by members of Fisher House for use during the Stations of the Cross last Monday 9 March were beautiful and profound. They are attached to the weekly email to members, and can be found on the website.

COFFEE After the 11am Mass in the Fisher Room. Please do join us.

FLOOR POLISHING

The chapel floor will be sealed and polished in preparation for Easter, on Friday 27 March. There will be no Mass that day, as the floor will be sticky!

OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

For many years, the two chaplaincies have organized a joint pilgrimage to Lourdes. More recently, the Cambridge involvement has become notable. The organizers will be in Fisher House on Thursday 30 April to talk about the pilgrimage and show a short film.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 14 June Leavers' BBQ
Thursday 11 June Annual Fisher Dinner
Thursday 18 June Fisher House Garden Party

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

At 12.30pm on Fridays, before Mass, Stations of the Cross will be prayed during Lent.

PALM SUNDAY, TRIDUUM & EASTER TIMES

PALM SUNDAY

Gather in Fisher Square for blessing and procession with palms at 10.30am.

MONDAY Mass 1.05pm

TUESDAY *No Mass*

SPY WEDNESDAY Mass 1.05pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.00pm EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Watching at the Altar of Repose until Midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY

3.00pm **SOLEMN**

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION.

6.00pm Stations of the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY

4.00am **THE EASTER VIGIL**

Followed by breakfast.

There will be no other Mass on Easter Sunday.

TIMETABLE THIS WEEK

This week we commence the vacation timetable. Mass on Monday will be at 1.05 (as on other days of the week). Next weekend there will be no Saturday Vigil Mass, and on Sunday Mass only at 10.30am. Saturday confessions continue, 4.30pm—5.30pm.

WORTH ABBEY RETREAT

Please remember in your prayers Sister Ann and the students on retreat in Worth Abbey from 20 to 22 March.

ST LUKE KIRBY

On Wednesday, Fr Mark will travel to Stonyhurst College, to collect the relic of St Luke that will be placed in the altar together with other relics. A list of Cambridge Martyrs is now displayed in the chapel.

FACEBOOK & WEBSITE

Stay up to date during the vacation through the Fisher Society Facebook page, to be found at: www.facebook.com/groups/fishersociety/ - And our website, with its calendar of events: www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Collection last week: £438.74
Thank you!

FISHER HOUSE ART EXHIBITION

The exhibition of work by students and senior members will be held in the Fisher Room from Sunday 26 April for a week. We already have a good number of submissions - if you would like to contribute paintings or sculpture to the exhibition, please speak to Fr Mark or email him on: chaplain@fisherhouse.org.uk

IN HONOUR OF ST JOHN FISHER

As last year, there will be something of a 'Fisheriad': a festival of our Patron. On Friday 1 May, Baroness Scotland will deliver the Fisher Lecture on the subject 'Can you be a Catholic in public life?', while on Monday 4 May, Archbishop George Stack of Cardiff will celebrate the Fisher Mass - this is also, happily, the Feast Day of our own Cambridge martyrs.

CONSECRATION OF THE ALTAR

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool will consecrate our new altar at 11.00am Mass on Sunday 31 May.