

LENT: KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON!

It all began so well. It always does. At the start of every Lent, many of us entertain the fantasy that this will be the year everything changes: by Easter we will be masters and mistresses of the spiritual life, living miracles of charity, and all our ongoing temptations and besetting sins will be things of the past. And then life happens. We get sick, and don't have the energy for the programme of fasting we'd planned; the demands of our work whittle away the time we'd set aside for extra prayer; because it's nearly the end of term and we're tired, we find ourselves being irritable and tetchy with our friends. And at that point, it's very easy to give up: Lent isn't working – I'll try again next year.

If this is where we are, three weeks into Lent this year, here are some words of encouragement from our ancestors in the faith in the early centuries of the Church. First, a challenge from St Gregory the Great:

And so, dearly beloved, what every Christian should always be doing must now be performed more earnestly and more devoutly. It is our duty to love both God and our neighbour, and however we may be hindered in other ways, we are always sufficiently free to wish well to others... There are all manner of possible works of mercy and their very variety implies for true Christians that both the rich and poor have opportunities for doing good. Thus, even if we are not all equal in our worldly goods, we can achieve an equal standard in the love of our fellows.

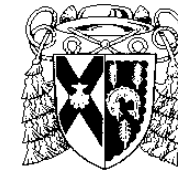
But second, a message of consolation from St John Chrysostom. Looking forward to Easter, he writes:

*Are there any weary with fasting?
Let them now receive their wages!*

*If any have toiled from the first hour,
let them receive their due reward;
And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,
let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.
For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.
He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour,
as well as to him that toiled from the first.
You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!
Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.
Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!*

However we have kept Lent – or failed to keep it! – may that Easter joy be ours, too.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 8 March– 3rd Sunday of Lent

CALENDAR

Sunday 1	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 2	12.30 Mass
Tuesday 3	1.05 Mass
Wednesday 4	1.05 Mass 12.30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 5	1.05 Mass
Friday 6	1.05 Mass 12.30pm Stations of the cross 7.30 Mass
Saturday 7	1.05 Mass 4.30—5.30 Confessions 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 8	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass

VIGIL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Exposition Friday 8.30am - Saturday 5.30pm

MISERERE

A concert of Lenten music will be given by the Fisher Consort, led by Jonathan Schranz, to-night in the chapel at 8.00pm.

This vocal group, formed by Jonathan, performs to the highest standards, and this concert will be uplifting and meditative. Free, with retiring collection.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL

Following Pope Francis' call for '24 hours for the Lord', there will be a vigil beginning after Mass next Friday evening, lasting until 5.30pm on Saturday. Please sign up on the list outside chapel to watch before the Blessed Sacrament. More details on the Fisher Society Facebook page.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Eagle Pub, Dr Jeremy Wilkins will talk on the Dereliction of Christ. All welcome.

KOLB FUND

Available to catholic women born in the UK, these useful grants can go towards study, travel, or medical expenses. There are conditions - do read the poster outside the chapel - but the fund is well worth considering.

MASS AT JESUS COLLEGE

On Wednesday at 6.20 (nb time change); please contact Pavel Kohout (pk396) for information about Formal Hall afterwards.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Monday, our Lenten reflection with focus on the Stations of the Cross - in the chapel at 7.00pm. If you would like to contribute a meditation or a poem, please contact Mollie Cornell (melc2).

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

Fr Mark will talk about *Holy Week* followed by discussion during lunch. 1.15pm, Fisher room.

WORTH ABBEY RETREAT

There will be a Fisher House retreat at Worth Abbey, led by Sr Ann, from 20 to 22 March. See either Sr Ann or Fr Mark if interested.

FRUGAL FRIDAY COOK-BOOK

£6, full colour, recipes from Fisher House for frugal yet delicious meals. Pick up an order form outside the chapel.

COFFEE & TEA

After 11am Mass in the Fisher room. Please join us!

MASSES NEXT SUNDAY

Term ends on Friday, but the termtime Mass schedule still applies next Sunday, with Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday, and 9.00am and 11.00am on Sunday. Times of services for Holy Week and Easter will be published soon.

APOLOGETICS GROUP

Meeting in the Library on Saturday at 7.00pm. Contact Hania Wyciszczok (hmnw56) or Max Nussbaumer (mn406).

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The next course for couples preparing for marriage will begin on Monday 9 March at 7.00pm. If you wish to attend, or would like more information, contact Fr Mark (ml709).

SAINTS AND SCONES: Sunday 4.30PM, Sr Ann's room. This week, *Doctors of the Church*. Tea and scones as standard.

DANTE CIRCLE

Under the expert guidance of Professor Kirkpatrick. Meets Wednesday, Great Chamber, 6.30pm. All welcome.

FACEBOOK & WEBSITE

Stay up to date:
www.facebook.com/groups/fishersociety/ - And our website:
www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse

SCRIPTURE STUDY

GROUP Please watch the Fisher Society Facebook page for confirmation of the day this week.

FISHER FAMILIES

A group for those with bumps, babies and small children. This week we will be meeting on Monday from 3pm to 4.30pm in Sr Ann's room. Drop by for a chat and a snack. Contact: Irenka Lennon (wmis2)

MEDICAL ETHICS GROUP

The group, of special but not exclusive interest to medics, meets on Mondays at 7.00pm in the Fisher House library. Contact Basia Chmielewska (*bjmc2*).

ARE YOU AN ARTIST?

We know you are out there! If you have produced paintings or sculptures, and you would like to contribute to a Fisher House Art exhibition, please contact Fr Mark on ml709.

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

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Collection last week: £544.49
Thank you!