

Seeing our Salvation

The Presentation of Christ is a paradoxical feast. Mary and Joseph bring the forty-day old Jesus to present him to the Lord, and he is recognised by the elderly Simeon as the Light of the Nations, the saving gift of God for the whole world. But a shadow falls across the radiance: even as Simeon cradles the baby in his arms he speaks words in which the Church has always heard a prediction of the Lord's Passion, telling of the sword that will pierce his mother's heart.

But, if the Presentation is about contradiction, it is also about continuity, a feast that stands on the threshold, first of all, between the Old and New Testaments, but also on the threshold of the seasons. At least in this part of the world, we are on the cusp on winter and spring. And, as the forty days of the Christmas season draw to their close, we can see, perhaps more clearly than we'd like, the forty days of Lent already visible on the liturgical horizon.

The old English name for this feast, Candlemas, helps to teach us the significance of all this. The symbolism of the candles we carry in procession at Mass on February 2nd is obvious. The church is ablaze with light as we recall the entry of the true light of the world into his Father's house. Candles did not, in fact, feature in the temple ritual of presentation, though this did not stop our Medieval ancestors putting them imaginatively into the hands of Mary and Joseph in sculpture and stained glass.

There are two feasts in the Church's year in which she puts candles into the hands of her children.: the Presentation, and the Easter Vigil. In the Middle Ages, the Paschal Candle was itself blessed at Candlemas, a powerful reminder that, though the sword of which Simeon speaks will indeed pierce the heart of Mary as she witnesses the final terrible hours of her Son's earthly life, it will not be for her, and will not be for us, the end of the story, because it was not the end of the story for him.

Candlemas is not, then, just a grim reminder that Baby Jesus will grow up to endure the full force of human wrath and evil. Much more, it stands at the threshold between Christmas and Easter, as a consoling reminder that we who are baptized into the death of Christ, announced in shadowy prophecy by Simeon, are also baptized into his resurrection. Whatever path we may have to tread to our own personal moments of crucifixion, we can walk it with a lighted candle in our hand, a candle that already speaks of the dawning day ahead. In the light of Candlemas, which is also the light of Easter, we can go forth in peace, having seen our salvation.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 31st January - 4TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK III

Sunday 31	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 1	12.30pm	Mass	
Tuesday 2	1.05pm	Mass	Presentation of the Lord
Wednesday 3	1.05 pm	Mass	St Laurence & companions
		12.30 <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Thursday 4	1.05pm	Mass	
Friday 5	1.05pm	Mass	St Agatha
	7.30pm	Mass	
Saturday 6	1.05	Mass in EF	St Paul Miki
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 7	FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ
www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse/

FISHER SOCIETY AGM

The Committee of Students which organises events, both spiritual and social, at Fisher House, will hold the Society AGM on next Sunday, at 12.00. This will include elections to the Committee. Lists of those willing to stand, and biographies of candidates for the Chairman are posted outside the chapel.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

On Monday at 7.30pm in the Library, Fr Bruno explore 2 Macc 12:39-45. All welcome.

COMMUNION & LIBERATION

This catholic movement meets once a week in Cambridge. We share if and how being Christian changes everyday life. Meetings every Tuesday at 9 pm in the music room at the parish centre of OLEM.

TAIZE GROUP

We are delighted that the local Taize group will meet at Fisher House monthly. Next meeting, Monday 1 February 9.00pm in the chapel.

MASS AT ROBINSON COLLEGE

Tuesday 2 February, 6.30pm

BOOK SALE

There will be a sale of discontinued books from the library after 11.00am Mass next Sunday. Proceeds will go to CAFOD.

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

A series of talks over lunch on Monday, given by Fr Mark. This week: *Liberation Theology*

WHY GOD FOR CHRISTIANS IS GOOD FOR NOTHING

On Monday 1 February at 6.15pm in the Old Divinity School (opposite St John's), Terry Eagleton will speak to the Trinity Forum. All welcome.

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.

PALM BRANCHES

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

BENEDICTINE LIFE

On Thursday at 7.30pm in the Fisher Room, Fr Luke Bell OSB will talk about the history and spirituality of the Benedictine Order. This is the first in a short series on religious life. All welcome.

DANTE CIRCLE

The first Dante meeting this term takes place on Monday in the Great Chamber. Professor Kirkpatrick will lead us in considering Dante and Eros. Texts provided and no knowledge of Italian necessary. Details on the poster outside chapel. All welcome.

CAFOD GAP YEAR

CAFOD is offering a fully funded year in a UK placement, including 3 weeks visiting CAFOD partners abroad. Please see poster for details.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The children's liturgy will begin next Sunday at the 11.00am Mass. Children will be brought in procession into the Fisher Room, next door, for a reading of the gospel and activities., and then 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 in action: St Dymphna and her legacy.*

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

£367.79

Thank you!