

JESUS THE LIBERATOR

During the Sundays of Ordinary Time this year, the Church presents to us readings from the Gospel of Mark. Unlike Matthew and Luke's Gospels, with their heart-warming passages such as Sermon on the Mount and the man who had two sons, Mark's Gospel is more scary and demanding. As hearers of the word these Sundays, we enter the world of St Mark, one which is characterized by the language of demonic and evil forces, and conflicts between such forces and Jesus himself. Moreover, many of these dark forces are portrayed as deeply human and intrinsic to our own lives—something which may be directly relevant to our experience today.

Yet we notice too that in this Gospel, Jesus is always the Stronger One. He is, above all, the agent who sets human beings free from demonic control—from those forces and captivities which bind and constrict us. Yet even this notion is itself problematic: we who are inheritors of Enlightenment rationality are necessarily wary and suspicious of the very possibility of 'enchantment' in our world today. We do not readily admit talk of devils, demons, possession, exorcism, or any phenomena that do not bear a rational explanation in this contemporary human life of ours. Yet as troubling as this 'spirit-talk' may be, if we dismiss it out of hand as something outdated, we also risk dismissing the powerful and consoling message of Mark. This message is that Jesus is the one who liberates us from the things which oppress and control us in life.

Both the notion of 'control' and the message of freedom find application for us today. Why? Because we are invited to think about those pressures of our lives—personal, vocational, social, economic—to which we are captive, and from which we feel ourselves powerless to control, or even escape, all by ourselves. The Gospel of Mark holds out to us the truth that no matter what binds us, or holds us back, Jesus is the Stronger One. No matter the size of the hurdle we face, or the weight of the burden we bear, Jesus Son of God has the strength to free us, heal us, and encourage us, especially when we feel that we do not.

Perhaps, this week, we can pray for the courage and the strength to offer ourselves in a new way to Christ, trusting that he is one who has our situations under control, even when we feel that we do not.

Fr Philip



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28st January - 4th Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK II

Sunday 28	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass
Monday 29	1.05pm Mass
Tuesday 30	1.05pm Mass
Wednesday 31	1.05 pm Mass <i>St John Bosco</i> 12.30 <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 1 February	1.05pm Mass
Friday 2	1.05pm Mass <i>PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i> 7.30pm Vespers and Reflection
Saturday 3	1.05pm Mass Ss Laurence, Dunstan, Theodore 4.30—5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 4	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

AQUINAS LECTURE

The annual lecture at Blackfriars, given by Dr Andrew Meszaros, will take place on Monday 29 January, at 6.00pm.

CAFOD COLOMBIA

Fr Sterlin and Fr Bernadino, two priests from Colombia who work with CAFOD there, will be at Fisher House next Saturday, 3 February, to meet students and tell them about their work. 2.30pm in the Fisher Room. All are welcome.

GRADSOC

On Thursday, GradSoc is heading to the ADC theatre to see the Oresteia. Please contact Lydia, by Sunday, if interested.

FR MARK

will be preaching for Evensong at Peterhouse next Sunday, at 6.00pm.

TAIZÉ PRAYER

Prayer in the Taizé tradition will take place in the chapel on Monday 3 February at 9.00pm.

MASS AT QUEENS'

Mass will be celebrated in the chapel of Queens' College on Wednesday 7 February at 6.15pm. For refreshment catering, if you wish to attend, please let Nicholas Foong know by Wed. 31 (nf335).

QUERO : THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGIANS

A new venture this term, beginning on Sunday 28 January at 3.30pm, is aimed at theologically minded postgraduate and undergraduate students who aren't (necessarily) doing theology degrees. There will be some reading to do, and each session will comprise prayer, a presentation and a discussion. The topics for this term are:

1. The Role of Faith in the Modern World (Jan 28)
2. Can you reason your way to God? (Feb 4)
3. Theodicy, Original Sin, and the Fall (Feb 11)
4. Heaven, Hell and the Catholic Response to Eternity (Feb 18)

Watch the notice-board for more details.

FISHER SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE

The best way of keeping up with events in Fisher House is through the Fisher Society Facebook page. Please make sure you are a member. There is also a full calendar of services and events maintained on the website.

BENSON CLUB

The next novel to be read is our own Monsignor Benson's apocalyptic masterpiece: *Lord of the World*. We meet to discuss it on 15 March - so you have all term to read it!

FISHER SOCIETY AGM

The meeting to hear about the working of the Student body that organises religious and social events at the Chaplaincy will take place on Sunday 4 February. If you would like to stand for the committee, or one of its offices, please sign up outside the chapel.

THE LIST CLOSES ON
SUNDAY EVENING.

APOLOGIA - TUESDAY EVENING TALKS

Fr Alban joins us on Tuesday even for a talk on a subject yet to be announced! Come for a meal at 7.00pm, talk at 8.00pm, followed by compline and the Bar.

GRADSOC

This week, some high culture! On Thursday, a visit to the ADC Theatre to see the Oresteia, Aeschylus' exploration of murder, revenge, and family duty. If you would like to come, contact Lydia on lch46 by Monday.

INTERFAITH DINNER

On Friday, there is the chance to join our Jewish friends for Sabbath Prayers at 6.00pm in the Jewish chaplaincy (3 Thompsons Lane), and then Dinner, at which the guest speaker will be Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. Details from Krzysztof on kpz20.

CONSIDER YOUR CALL

If you are wondering about religious life, or priesthood, come along on Friday at 6.00pm to the Great Chamber, for discussion and time of prayer.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Nicholas Hudson will celebrate Mass on 4 March, and confer the sacrament of Confirmation. If you want to be Confirmed, please see Fr Mark.

DANTE CIRCLE

The Dante Circle this term will aim to introduce the Divine Comedy to those who are new to Dante. Our guide is Prof. Robin Kirkpatrick - we could ask for no-one better to accompany us! See the notice board outside the chapel for details.

FILM CLUB

The Film this evening will be Martin Scorsese's film of Shūsaku Endō's searing novel *Silence*, telling of the persecution of the Catholic Church in Japan in the 17th century. Fisher Room, 8.00pm. Next Sunday, the classic film of finding Catholicism in Food (and favourite of Pope Francis and Bishop Rowan Williams) *Babette's Feast*.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£330.49

Thank you!