

## TO CARE AND NOT TO CARE

**T**oday, Laetare Sunday, I would like to begin with a question: on this day - one which anticipates and reminds us of the joy that we will experience on Easter Sunday - how do we see what we do in Lent as different from a New Year's resolution? Is it the same as saying that, this year, I'm not going to eat so much chocolate? Or am I going to give up sweets, or biscuits, or a glass of red wine with dinner? Or that I need to lose weight, and now is the time?

Today is a reminder that the resolutions we make during Lent are different from New Year's resolutions. Why? Because it's not about the self-improvement that we undertake for its own sake. Rather, it's not about what we do for *ourselves*, but what Christ has done *for us*. Truly, the whole point of giving things up in Lent is that it prepares us for something more. It helps us to clear away the excess in our lives to help us hear again what Jesus has to say to us.

In the prophet Joel, we hear the words 'return to me with your whole heart'. And St Paul reminds us *do not receive the grace of God in vain*, for God hears and helps us, and now is a very acceptable time to receive the grace of God in our lives - the grace that the Lord always offers us.

So, on this Laetare Sunday, when we prepare ourselves for both the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter, let us follow the advice of T.S. Eliot, who in his poem, *Ash Wednesday*, says: Lord, *teach us to care and not to care. Teach us to sit still*. For at this mid-point of the 40 days of Lent, we recognize that Lent is essentially a double movement. Yes, we care enough to open ourselves, to be honest and free with the Lord, so he can enter our lives. But also, we take on the disposition which involves *not to care*, in the sense that the work, in the end, is God's. God works in us, if we open ourselves. And, in the end, we can only approach this if we sit still, and we listen.

So, this Laetare Sunday, let us pray that we open ourselves to the Lord in our words and deeds, both giving up and taking on. That we return to the Lord with all our hearts, preparing ourselves for his self-gift at Easter. That we may honestly show him all corners of our lives, as we open our hearts to his death and resurrection, which is of course the measure of how much we are loved, and is itself the best cause for rejoicing.

*Fr Philip*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 11 March - 4th Sunday of Lent

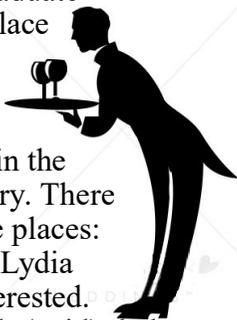
### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK VII

Sunday 11	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE)	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00am	Sung English Mass
Monday 12	1.05pm	Mass
Tuesday 13	12 noon	Mass
Wednesday 14	12.30pm	<i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i>
	1.05 pm	Mass
Thursday 15	1.05pm	Mass
Friday 16	12.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
	1.05pm	Mass
	7.30pm	<i>NIGHTFEVER</i>
Saturday 17	1.05pm	Mass St Patrick
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 18	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass

## BENSON DINNER

The annual Graduate Dinner takes place on Saturday 17 March a delightful formal dinner in the candle-lit library. There are a few spare places: please contact Lydia on lch46 if interested.

We also need (paid) helpers and waiters. Please contact Lydia or Stephen (sk792).



## BOOKS FOR THE HOMELESS

Many homeless people like to read donated books. Our SVP will take these out on their nightly rounds. A box is outside the chapel for suitable donations.

## SENIOR MEMBERS' GROUP FOR LENT

Our Senior Members Reading Group continues to meet on Thursday, at 6.00pm, in the Clergy House Dining Room, when we will read chapters 6 and 7 of Luigi Gioia's *Say it to God*.

## LOURDES O&C PILGRIMAGE

The Oxford and Cambridge Lourdes pilgrimage takes place 21 - 27 July. Cost £350 (bursaries available). Contact lourdesoandc@gmail.com or speak to Fr Mark

## QUAERO : THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGIANS

Our theology group continues today, 11 March, at 3.30pm in the Library with the question of *Heaven*. For more details, and a reading package, contact Robert Billups on querocam@gmail.com

## BENSON CLUB

The Benson Club meets on Thursday at 7.30pm in the Great Chamber to discuss Monsignor Benson's dystopian masterpiece: *Lord of the World*. (available free online). Wine and suitably apocalyptic nibbles will be provided!

## DANTE CIRCLE

The Dante circle meets next on 14 March at 7.30pm to discuss Canto xiv of *Paradiso*. A relaxed and friendly way to be introduced to the great poet and his masterpiece. Texts and translations provided.

## MORNING PRAYER

is prayed Mon-Fri 8.15am, in the chapel.

## FRUGAL FRIDAY COOKBOOK

This lovely cookbook, containing recipes donated by members of Fisher House, costs just £1 - a veritable feast for Lent! Available after Mass.



## NIGHT FEVER

On Friday 16 March, we hold *Night Fever*, when students go out into the city and invite people to come and light a candle, and say a prayer, in the chapel. The evening is challenging and exciting, bringing many blessings; and *Night Fever* is deeply rewarding to those who take part. We need names to sign up - please add your name to the board outside chapel.



## APOLOGIA

Our popular Tuesday series concludes for this term with Fr Bruno OP speaking on *Spirituality and Prayer*. Come for a meal at 7.00pm, talk at 8.00pm. Followed by Compline and Bar. Voluntary donation of £1 towards the cost of the meal.

## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 8 - 9 SEPTEMBER

A major event in the life of the Church. A Eucharistic Congress will be held in Liverpool, with delegates from every parish and community in the country. We have several allocated places. If you would like to attend, see Fr Mark.

## MID-DAY PRAYER

We will be praying at 12 noon each day, according to the Ordinarite Customary. All welcome.

## SCRIPTURE READING

On Fridays in Lent, over lunch in the Fisher Room, there will be opportunity to read and discuss some scripture passages.

## FILM CLUB

We conclude this term's series of films on a high theological and profound level with Paul Verhoeven's 1997 masterpiece *Starship Troopers*. OK. It's actually about huge bugs attacking the earth, but is also an essay on what war does to us, Peter Canavese calls it 'insanely subversive...a visually dazzling science-fiction action picture, a philosophical challenge, and a hilarious, incisive comedy. 8.00pm in the Fisher Room.

## MASS TIMES NEXT SUNDAY

Next weekend, we remain with the term-time schedule: Vigil Mass on Saturday, and 9.00am and 11.00am Masses on Sunday. The following Sunday—Palm Sunday—Mass is at 10.30am, and will begin in Cardinal Place with the blessing and procession of palms.

## COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£377.82

Thank you!