

LENT: KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

It all began so well. It always does. At the start of every Lent, many of us secretly 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, coming up towards mid-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 keep Lent – or fail to keep it! – may that Easter joy be ours, too.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 4 March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK VII

Sunday 4	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass Celebrant: Bishop Nicholas Hudson
Monday 5	1.05pm Mass
Tuesday 6	12 noon Mass
Wednesday 7	12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 1.05 pm Mass
Thursday 8	1.05pm Mass
Friday 9	12.30pm Stations of the Cross 1.05pm Mass 7.30pm Fisher House Stations of the Cross
Saturday 10	1.05pm Mass 4.30—5.30 Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 11	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE) 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00 am Sung English Mass

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ

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

At 6.00pm on Thursdays in Lent, an opportunity for to meet and discuss Luigi Gioia's *Say it to God*. Copies are available from Fr Mark

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

FILM CLUB

Tonight Pasolini's 'Gospel According to Matthew'. In 2015, the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* called it the best film on Christ ever made. 8.00pm Fisher Room. [94% on Rotten Tomatoes, if your're interested...]

BENSON DINNER

The annual Graduate Dinner takes place on Saturday 17 March. We need (paid) helpers and waiters. Please contact Stephen (sk792).

QUAERO : THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGIANS

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

TAIZE PRAYER

Monday at 9.00pm. This week, joined by Br Jean-Marc from the Taizé community.

**Br Jean-Marc will preach in Corpus chapel on Sunday 4 March at 6.00pm Evensong.

BENSON CLUB

The next novel to be read is Monsignor Benson's apocalyptic masterpiece: *Lord of the World*. (available free online). We discuss it on 15 March.

DANTE CIRCLE

The Dante circle meets next on 7 March at 7.30pm to discuss Canto xxx of *Purgatorio*. Texts and translations provided.

MORNING PRAYER

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

MID-DAY PRAYER

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

FRUGAL FRIDAY COOKBOOK

Just £1 - a feast for Lent! Available after Mass.

ARCHBISHOP PAUL GALLAGHER

Archbishop Gallagher is the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States: effectively, the Vatican's 'Foreign Secretary', and the highest ranking Englishman within the Curia. He will speak at Fisher House on Tuesday 6 March at 1.00pm on Vatican policy in the Middle East.

** Because of this talk, Mass on Tuesday will be at 12 noon.

Archbishop Paul will speak at 6.00pm on the evening of Monday 5 March at Clare College on 'The Role of the Holy See in International Peacebuilding'. Booking is essential for this lecture. So, please email Nicola Robertson (nr399) to reserve your (free) ticket.

APOLOGIA

Our popular Tuesday series continues this week with Sr Ann on *the Eucharist*. 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.

FISHER HOUSE STATIONS

On Friday 9 March, we celebrate a special Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm, with reflections, poems, songs composed by members of Fisher House community. This is always an inspiring and moving evening - all are welcome.

NIGHT FEVER

On Friday 16 March, we hold our third 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, but brings many blessings. We need names to sign up - please look at the board outside chapel.

ORTHODOXY POSTPONED

Fr Raphael Armour, Russian Orthodox chaplain, has had to cancel his talk on Thursday. He will now speak early next term.

SCRIPTURE READING

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

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£502.48

Thank you!