

A PROFOUND PRESENCE

It is easy for all of us to lose sight of our vision and our hope from time to time in our lives. We can lose the confidence to achieve what we thought we could, or we experience a setback that dashes our hopes. Sometimes a task or a project can seem so large or so complex, that it could never be finished, or finished well. Sometimes we sin, and ruin everything. Others of us experience the loss of a loved one, or a relationship, or sickness—where there was once a future in which we had envisaged and invested so much, and now there is a nothingness, except perhaps a sense of loss. Vibrance presence now replaced with a sense of absence.

And all of this would be ultimate, if it were not for the Ascension which we celebrated this week. Indeed, many people often mistake the Ascension as being Christ's absence from the world. But the disciples here for once get it right: they know the event does not mean that Jesus has gone away to a place far from us, from the world. This feast expresses our belief that Christ's human nature exists in the inner life of God in a profoundly new way. It also means that we have the opportunity of an ever-lasting place with God, and at the same time God is abidingly open to all human beings.

How does this affect the experiences of absence in our own lives? The Ascension, and indeed the whole of the Easter season, encourages us to look at the world with new eyes that are informed by the good news of the risen Christ. We are invited to remain with this absence, investigating what it might mean. Because of the Ascension, in any absence that we sense, we can notice a more profound presence. Though Jesus may not be able to be physically sensed, when we pray, he draws us into his presence, into the inner life of God, which is our most ultimate fulfilment. So, in these last weeks of Easter, may we open our hearts to experience Christ's presence to us in a new way, even if we cannot immediately see him.

Fr Philip



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 13 May - 7th Sunday of Easter

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK III

Sunday 13	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass Celebrant: Bishop John Arnold.
Monday 14	1.05pm Mass <i>St Matthias</i>
Tuesday 15	1.05pm Mass
Wednesday 16	12.30pm <i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i> 1.05 pm Mass
Thursday 17	1.05pm Mass
Friday 18	1.05pm Mass 6.30pm <i>Vespers and Reflection</i>
Saturday 19	1.05pm Mass 4.30—5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 20	PENTECOST SUNDAY 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00 am Sung English Mass

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

BENSON CLUB

The Benson Club's next book is David Lodge's *How Far Can You Go?*, a bitterly funny satire on life for young English Catholics in the 1950s and 1960s. We will meet towards the end of term - date to be announced.

DISARMING BEAUTY

Fr. Julián Carron, president of Communion and Liberation, will present his book *Disarming Beauty* on May 18th, 5.00pm, in the Cripps Auditorium at Magdalene. The book is a thought-provoking collection of essays about the most pressing questions of contemporary society.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A one-day course will be held at Fisher House next Saturday 19 May, from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Please see Fr Mark if you are interested.

KOLB FUND

The fund provides grants for Catholic women students born in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, towards the cost of books or equipment, travel or medical expenses. Application form on the Fisher House website at <http://fisherhouse.org.uk/the-elizabeth-kolb-memorial-trust/>

QUAERO : THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGIANS

Our theology group continues on Sunday at 3.30pm in the Library, examining Catholic notions of Beauty. For more details, and a reading package, contact Robert Billups on querocam@gmail.com

FOOTBALL

Julia Wdowin is our valiant captain as we assemble a team to play the Oxford Chaplaincy for the Fisher-More cup (which we sadly but temporarily lost to them last year). Please sign up on the noticeboard, or contact Julia on jw735.

MASS AT MAGDALENE COLLEGE

This was scheduled for Wednesday 16, but is now moved to Wednesday 23, 6.00pm (being Magdalene, it is worth waiting for! - ed). To be followed by Formal Hall.

THE FISHER DINNER

The social event of the year, a black-tie dinner to be held this year on Wednesday 13 June at St Edmund's College, with drinks beforehand at Blackfriars. Cost will be £35 (drinking) or £29 (non-drinking). Sign-up sheet outside chapel, or book electronically on <https://bit.ly/2G8I7bi>

Dinner will be followed by the legendary Fisher All-Nite Party, with dancing and entertainment until dawn.

SIR PARTHA DASGUPTA

On Tuesday, distinguished economist Sir Partha Dasgupta FRS, Member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS) and Fellow of St John's College, will talk about the role of the Pontifical Academies in the life of the scientific community and the Church. Sir Partha is convened the PASS meeting on climate change, which influenced Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato si'* on environmental issues. Should be an interesting talk for all natural and social scientists! 6.30pm Fisher Room.

GRADUATE/PD SOCIETY

The GradSoc meets on Thursday at 7.30pm for Theology on Tap. Please contact Marc for details on mb2187.

On 24 May Grad/PDSoc will be going to Formal Hall dinner in the Old Library in Pembroke College at 7:30pm: a wonderful location to have a dinner, and one of the best kitchens in Cambridge. Tickets cost £14.60 for a three-course meal. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by email by the end of Tuesday 15 May.

FISHER HOUSE GARDEN PARTY

The annual Garden Party, in the lush grounds of the Margaret Beaufort Institute, will take place on Tuesday 19 June, from 3.00 - 5.30pm

OUR VERY OWN BISHOP

This weekend, we welcome Bishop John Arnold, from Salford, who is Bishop responsible for the Oxford and Cambridge chaplaincies. He will celebrate and preach at 11.00am Mass.

SCRIPTURE READING

On Fridays over lunch, we continue our scripture reading, with an opportunity to read and discuss some passages. 1.30pm in the Fisher Room.

CPR CLASS

There will be an opportunity to learn Cardiopulmonary resuscitation: a member of Fisher House who is fully qualified has offered to run a class on Friday 25 May. It will take about two hours. Places limited. Please sign up.

GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE

Those who signed up for a copy of Pope Francis' exhortation on Holiness can collect their copies from Fr Mark. Price £4 (a saving of 95 pence!)

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£283.89

Thank you!