

FIRMLY I BELIEVE AND TRULY ...

It's a cliché, but nonetheless true, that what makes us laugh can reveal what makes us feel uncomfortable. And it's surprising how many comic cameo appearances the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity makes in 20th century fiction. Last week in this newsletter, for instance, Fr Mark quoted from Grahame Greene's *Monsignor Quixote*, in which the hero attempts, in the course of a picnic in the Spanish sun, to explain the Church's teaching by recourse to three bottles of wine, speaking winningly of the extra spark of joie de vivre imparted by the third bottle, representing the Holy Spirit. But then, having imbibed a good deal of the contents of his visual aids, he becomes contrite. This third bottle was only half the size of the other two. Has he unwittingly taught heresy, suggesting that the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is not the equal of Father and Son? Our reactions to this are likely to be ambiguous, as doubtless the author intends. Are we supposed to feel complacently superior to the poor befuddled little country priest who can't quite remember the minutiae of the doctrine they taught him at Seminary but who knows it was all terribly important somehow? Or is it all right to feel that there is something beautifully heroic in his half-cut attempts at precision, subverted as they are not merely by sun and wine but by the intrinsic limitations of language? This mirrors an anxiety many of us may secretly harbour in relation to this Sunday's feast. We know, intellectually, that the Doctrine of the Trinity is central to the Christian creed, so why it is not more central to our own lives of faith?

Perhaps our difficulty stems from shame at our inability to comprehend what it can possibly mean to say that God is three and God is one. But in fact this should be a cause for excitement, not embarrassment. In a place like Cambridge, where clarity and profundity of thought is rightly prized, we are particularly reluctant to make statements that we cannot exhaustively justify. Generally, that's good, not least with regard to our faith: we should certainly never leave our brains outside the Church door. But it is no abdication of our intellectual responsibility, but deep, and profoundly intelligent humility to confess that we do not know, completely, what it means to talk of God as Trinity. If we could understand this fully, after all, we would be as great as God himself. But this much we do know. We are made in the image of this mysterious, always greater God. And this has tremendous implications for how we think about and treat ourselves and each other. We too are always, mysteriously, greater than we might dream, or dread. Far from making us anxious, the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity should serve to allay our deepest fears.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27 May - MOST HOLY TRINITY

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK V

Sunday 27	MOST HOLY TRINITY	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00am	Sung English Mass
Monday 28	1.05pm	Mass
Tuesday 29	1.05pm	Mass
Wednesday 30	12.30pm	<i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i>
	1.05 pm	Mass
Thursday 31	1.05pm	Mass <i>Visitation of the BVM</i>
Friday 1	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Justin, Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	<i>Vespers and Reflection</i>
Saturday 2	1.05pm	Mass <i>Sts Marcellinus and Peter</i>
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 3	CORPUS CHRISTI	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass

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 ON Wednesday 20 June at 7.30pm.

SR ANNE'S OPEN OFFICE

Fridays, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm - the perfect break from the stress of revision.



MORNING PRAYER

Celebrated every Monday to Friday at 8.00pm. Exposition from 7.30am.

TAIZE PRAYER

This will be prayed in the chapel at 9.00pm on Monday 4 June.

TOP TEN CATHOLIC THINGS TO DO IN CAMBRIDGE

Did you know there is a leaflet outside chapel detailing the top 10 of everything Catholic in Cambridge - to visit, read, listen to? Pick up the leaflet free.

MASS AT CHRIST'S COLLEGE

Friday 1 June, at 6.00pm. Bookings for Formal Hall are now full, but there is still the opportunity to celebrate Mass in a chapel that St John Fisher himself would have known.

FITZWILLIAM EVENSONG

Fr Mark will preach at Fitzwilliam this Sunday, at 6.30pm.

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. We are hoping to travel to Oxford at the end of term to support our team.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

The Oratory School, a distinguished Catholic boarding school, is looking to appoint a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the 2018/19 academic year. This is a full time residential role, living in a boarding house and helping with duties, supervision and the pastoral care of boarders. Please see the notice board for details.

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/2G817bi>

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

Help available for those who need financial assistance - see Fr Mark.

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. Pétanque and Pimms all the way!

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.

ROSARY AT KINGS

The rosary will be prayed in King's College chapel next Thursday, 31 May, at 7.00pm. This is a one-off, but it is hoped to make it a regular event next term. If you wish to attend, please contact Jacob on jm2128, or Krzysztof on kpz20.

ROSARY

The rosary is prayed after 1.05pm Masses on Tuesday, Thursday during the week.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

Next Sunday, there will be a Corpus Christi procession at Our Lady and the English Martyrs, starting at 2.00pm and finishing with Benediction at about 3.00pm, with a 'station' in the school playground. All are welcome to participate.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£339.85

Thank you!