

## VANITY OF VANITIES

I was struck earlier this week by the reading at Mass from Ecclesiastes, which denounces the investment we make in passing glory: *Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.* Our plans, our devices and monuments - all are destined to pass, to crumble into dust. It's a particularly gloomy prognostication from the scriptures, jarring with the enthusiasm and optimism of the new term; the notions we have of what we shall achieve, how we shall make our mark, how we shall set down the first stones in the mighty monument of our career. At this time we anticipate our place in history - or at least in College - establishing our presence, putting a bookmark in this page of the history of our lives—even if it's just by polishing our shoes and buying new notebooks,

Which is well and right to do. *Vanity of Vanities, saith the Preacher.* But he speaks of those who set all their store by the present, who see no greater future, who pitch their tent in this moment. He is denouncing those who seek the *X-Factor* route to riches and glory, investing nothing of themselves, their real selves, in the demanding path to fulfilment and flourishing. Ecclesiastes denounces those who have no sense of movement in their lives, who prefer the security of the past, who are not willing to venture out into the unknown byways of the future. Vanity, in the preacher's terms, is a life devoid of vision, of trust, of risk. Vanity idolises the present, the security and comfort it seems to offer. Vanity is cowardly, lazy, unimaginative.

Cambridge is a risk. Not a foolish risk like crossing a busy street without looking, or ordering the hottest curry on the menu. It is a risk in putting out into the deep, venturing down a new and unknown path, leaving behind what is familiar and easy. It is a risk in that you will be challenged as never before to develop skills and discover your gifts. It is a risk that you will try some things that won't go right, that you will make mistakes, that you will misjudge some situations. But that is what it is to be alive and to learn, in the end, that is what love does. There is nothing vain about giving your all to Cambridge. Made in the image of God, you have so much to discover about yourself; talents and gifts given you by the Lord. Find them, use them, develop them. That is to give thanks to God.

*Fr Mark*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 30 September - 26th of the Year

### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK 0

Sunday 30	26TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
		11.00am	Sung English Mass
Monday 1 October	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Therese of the Child Jesus</i>
Tuesday 2	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Guardian Angels</i>
Wednesday 3	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 4	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Francis of Assisi</i>
Friday 5	1.05pm	Mass	
Saturday 6	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Bruno</i>
		4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 7	27TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	9.00am	Latin Mass
		11.00am	Sung English Mass
			FRESHERS' MASS

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR CHASE PEPPER CSC

### **BENSON CLUB**

The Benson Club's will be looking at two short stories by J.R.R. Tolkien - *Leaf by Niggle* and *Smith of Wooten Major*. Both can be found online (details on Facebook Page). Meeting in Great Chamber, Monday 8 October, 7.30pm. Cheese and wine supplied.

### **COLLEGE REPS**

There are drinks for College Reps on Monday 15 October in the Great Chamber at 8.00pm. Meanwhile - don't forget to take your bundles of term cards!

### **SCRIPTURAL REASONING FOR SENIOR MEMBERS**

An interfaith Scriptural Reasoning group will take place on Wednesday 3rd October from 6.30 to 8.00pm at 55 Grantchester Street, Cambridge, CB3 9HZ. Please contact Charlotte Turner on [charlotteturner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:charlotteturner@yahoo.co.uk)

### **TOP TEN CATHOLIC THINGS TO DO IN CAMBRIDGE**

Pick up your leaflet outside chapel detailing the top 10 of everything Catholic in Cambridge - to visit, read, listen to? Perfect for those who are finding their way around.

### **NEW CHAPLAIN**

We are thrilled that Fr Chase Pepper CSC, has arrived at Fisher House to commence his doctoral studies, during which time he joins Sr Ann and Fr Mark as chaplain. Fr Chase is a Holy Cross Priest from Notre Dame, Indiana, and will live at Fisher House.

Fr Philip is concluding his PhD. He will be away until November, and then is with us until Christmas.

### **GRADUATE DRINKS**

Wednesday is the normal evening for the Grad and Post-Grad Society. We begin with drinks to welcome you to the new academic year, in the Great Chamber, at 8.00pm on Wednesday 10 October.

### **APOLOGIA**

Our regular Tuesday meal and meeting gets underway on 9 October, at 7.00pm in the Fisher Room. Come for dinner, a talk, compline and then the bar. Fr Mark will speak on 'Being a Catholic at Cambridge.'

### **FRESHERS' FAIR**

Look out for the Fisher House stall at the Freshers' Fair in Parkers' Pieces, 2 and 3 October.

### **REGISTRATION CARD**

If you are new to Cambridge, please make sure you fill out a card, available outside the chapel.

### **FISHER HOUSE SOCIETIES' FAIR.**

Come along on Friday 12 October from 8.00pm for a Bar Night, and a chance to see some of the groups and activities that take place at Fisher House. There will be representatives from our societies, ranging from music making to ecumenism and inter-faith, and a chance to learn about regular events. Freshers' first drink is free!

### **FRESHERS' MASS**

Next Sunday, the 11.00am Mass will be a special 'Freshers' Mass', and there will be drinks and cakes served afterwards.

### **VESPERS**

Celebrated on Fridays at 7.30pm in chapel, beginning Friday 5 October.

### **BLACK SWAN BAR**

Our chaplaincy bar, named for the tavern that predates Fisher House, is open on Friday evenings from 8.00pm for members of Fisher House, it boasts the best and cheapest range of drinks in Cambridge.

### **GIVING TO THE HOMELESS**

It is a Christian imperative to give to the poor - but we must also be prudent in how we do it. Pick up a leaflet outside the chapel.

### **ECUMENISM AND INTER-FAITH GROUP**

The first talk of the term will be given by Revd Colin Smith, Methodist chaplain to the University, on Thursday 11 October at 7.30pm in the Great Chamber. All are welcome.

### **MARGARET BEAUFORT SEMINAR & COURSE**

*Women who Changed the Church* is a Public Seminar Series on the voices of women throughout history who have enriched and transformed church practice, communities and ideas. Thursday afternoons 4 Oct–22 Nov, 2pm–3.30pm £10 per seminar, £65 for the series, bursaries available.

*The Impossibility of Talking about God*: an introductory course for Catholic women exploring how language relates to experiencing and communicating to and about God. Thursday afternoons 4 Oct – 22 November. £170 - Bursaries available To apply, contact [mbit-adm@hermes.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mbit-adm@hermes.cam.ac.uk) Details on the notice board, or [facebook.com/MargaretBeaufortInstitute](https://facebook.com/MargaretBeaufortInstitute)

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

£302.99

*Thank you!*