

## JESUS IS THE STRONGER ONE

**D**uring the Sundays of Ordinary Time this year, the Church presents to us readings from the Gospel of Mark. But unlike Matthew and Luke, with their heart-warming passages about the Sermon on the Mount and the man who had two sons, Mark's Gospel is more scary and demanding. As hearers of the word these Sundays, we enter the Markan world characterized by demonic and evil forces, and we witness the conflict between such forces and Jesus. Moreover, many of these dark forces are portrayed as deeply human and intrinsic to our own lives, and perhaps even directly relevant to our experience today.

Yet we notice too that in Mark, Jesus is always the Stronger One. He is, above all, the agent who sets human beings free from demonic control—from those forces and captivities which bind and constrict us. In this week's Gospel, Jesus points to the very personal captivity which arises from our human pride: he makes an example of the clericalism of the scribes, who work for their own status and reputation in the very exercise of their religious duties. He shows that the 'antidote' to such captivity is the free and generous attitude of the widow. The widow who gave her whole self receives, quite paradoxically, a freedom which the scribes did not have. As Jesus points out, it is not the amount that is contributed that counts before God but the totality of personal trust and self-giving that the amount represents. For some in the story, they gave what they had left over after making sufficient allowance for their comfortable lifestyles. For the widow, her gift was absolutely everything: keeping nothing for herself, should could rely now only on the providence of God to whom she had surrendered her very self. Jesus shows that he has come to free us from those things which bind us, and the more we co-operate with God's work, we are blessed with his freeing and liberating grace.

This message of freedom finds application for us today because we are invited to think about those pressures of our lives—status, reputation, survival, success—in which we are captive, and from which we feel ourselves powerless to control or escape by ourselves. The Gospel of Mark holds out to us the truth that no matter what binds us or holds us back in this life of ours, Jesus is the Stronger One. That no matter the size of the hurdle we face, or the weight of the burden we bear, Jesus Son of God has the strength to free us, heal us, and encourage us, especially when we do not. Perhaps, this week, then, we can pray for the courage and the strength to offer ourselves in a new way to Christ, trusting that in his generosity and his love.

Fr Philip



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 11 November - 32nd of the Year

### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK VI

Sunday 11	32nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass
Monday 12	1.05pm Mass <i>St Josaphat</i>
Tuesday 13	1.05pm Mass
Wednesday 14	1.05pm Mass
Thursday 15	1.05pm Mass <i>St Albert the Great</i>
Friday 16	11.00am Mass <i>St Edmund of Canterbury</i>
Saturday 17	1.05pm Mass <i>Sts Hilda, Hugh of Lincoln</i> 4.30—5.30 Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 18	33RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00am Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass

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

## CUCA AGM AND ELECTIONS

The CUCA Annual General Meeting will be held at 12:00 on 25 November 2018. Elections for positions on CUCA Council will take place at the AGM. The following positions are to be filled: President (Prof Janet Soskice standing for re-election); Treasurer (Dr Damian Crowther standing for re-election); Secretary (Dr Mark Retter standing for re-election); one Additional Member to assist the Treasurer; and two Ordinary Members. If you wish to stand for election for one of these positions, please contact the CUCA Secretary at least 7 days before the meeting and arrange for your nomination to be proposed and seconded. For all enquiries, contact: [cuca\\_secretary@fisherhouse.org.uk](mailto:cuca_secretary@fisherhouse.org.uk).

## TAIZE PRAYER

Join the Taize group in the chapel at 8.00pm every Monday evening.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Thursday 29 November, we shall be singing carols for the SVP in Grand Arcade, from 3.00pm. This will be followed by our Christmas Party - which will include a Revue. If you would like to act, or play something, contact Fr Mark.

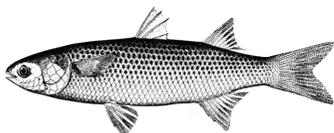
## NOVEMBER DEAD LIST

A book for you to record the names of your dear and loved ones will be available throughout November. Those recorded will be remembered at Masses this month.

## APOLOGIA

Our popular Tuesday meal and meeting continues on Tuesday, at 7.00pm in the Fisher Room. Come for dinner, a talk, compline and the bar. This week Professor Janet Soskice will speak on *The Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God: gender, doctrine and Scripture*.

## THE HADDOCKS



Fisher House's discussion group on medical ethics, aimed at doctors or anyone interested in these questions, meets on Mondays at 4.00pm in the Fisher Room.

## SVP – SOUP RUN

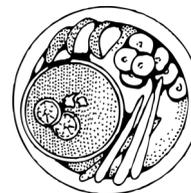
The Society of St Vincent de Paul meets weekly on Fridays at 6.00pm in the Fisher Room. If you would like to take part in the nightly soup runs, please contact Claire Cosgrove on cc837.

## GILBEY REQUIEM

The annual requiem for Mgr Gilbey will take place on Monday 19 November at 5.30pm.

## INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Come with dishes from your own tradition, and delight in delicacies from other countries! This is always a lovely evening, and there are many discoveries to be made!



Thurs 15 November at 7.30pm, Fisher Room. Contact Frederic on fbn20.

## SALE OF CAKES

Following 11.00am Mass next Sunday, there will be a sale of cakes to benefit Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project.

## GRAD & POST-DOC SOCIETY

On Wednesday, there will be a *theology on tap* session with Anthony O'Mahoney. His speciality is the Church and the Orient. 7.30pm Fisher Room.

## FISHER SOCIETY FACEBOOK GROUP



Make sure you join the Fisher Society group on Facebook. It's the best way to get up-to-the minute news about events.

## SVP GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is located outside the chapel. Pick up a pair of labels, in your preferred price range. Put one on your gift, and hang the other on the tree!

## SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

On Fridays, at 1.30pm in the Fisher Room, we read and discuss a passage of scripture.

## QUAERO: THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGAINS

On Sundays at 3.30pm in the library, discussion of classic texts in an engaging and accessible way - over mead! Contact Reed on rjm228

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

A one-day course, from 9.00am to 3.00pm, will take place at Fisher House on Sat 17 November. Please contact Fr Mark if you are interested in attending.

## BENSON CLUB

The book for this term is *Fr Elijah: an apocalypse*, by Michael O'Brien. We will meet to discuss it on Monday 26 November.

## COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£482.55

Thank you!

It costs £4,000 per week to run Fisher House.