

ALL TIME BELONGS TO HIM

Every year in Oxford, on 1st May, crowds gather in the early morning outside Magdalen College. At 6am, the chapel choir appears at the top of the tower, singing hymns to welcome the coming summer. Church bells ring, the streets are full of Morris Dancers. Like many Oxford graduates, I have very fond memories of May Morning, but what has May in Oxford to do with November in Cambridge? It happened that a hymn we sang at Morning Prayer this week was set to the tune used by the Magdalen choristers every year to open their tower-top programme. This was a song to greet the dawn of warm, bright days, filled with hope and sunshine; surely it didn't belong in the gloom of a dank autumn morning? But perhaps the contradiction between the music and my mood hints at something to ponder as we come towards the end of the liturgical year: the relationship between the natural seasons and the Church's calendar.

That relationship is an intriguing one. Sometimes – in the Northern hemisphere - the two appear in step. We commemorate the dead in November, for instance, as the light wanes, the year itself grows old. May, by contrast, is devoted by Catholics to honouring Our Lady, the fecundity and freshness of nature in spring providing an image of Mary, pregnant with the new life of Christ.

All of this says something very important about the goodness of the creation which thus fittingly provides a kind of commentary on the history of the good God's dealings with his people. That is a truth that stands at the heart of our Christian faith. But it should never be told in isolation from another, less consoling one. The goodness of God and his creation is for all of us sometimes obscured by the darkness of suffering; our minds and our bodies malfunction, are wounded by our own and others' misuse of them. Without denying the goodness of creation, we know, desperately, our need of rescue, both from the mess we make of ourselves and our world, and from the limits imposed on us simply by our status as creatures, frail and doomed to die.

Yet here, too, the rhythms of the liturgical year, in this case not mirroring, but cutting across those of the natural seasons, are a source of hope. It is at the darkest point in the year, when the days are shortest, when energy is at its lowest ebb and spring seems furthest away, that God comes to us at Christmas, to free us from our sin and weakness, and thus bring us to heaven to make us fully alive with his own unquenchable life. Perhaps that is why Medieval Christmastide poetry is so full of unseasonal imagery: roses blooming at midnight in midwinter; cherries miraculously provided as a gift to the child in the manger. Maybe it can also help us to see our dark November days glowing with the light of spring. The Lord is coming, at an hour and in a way we do not expect. He will confound and exceed all our expectations when he comes, bestowing strength and joy in a measure we dare not imagine. And the appropriate response to that is surely to break forth into joyful song. Even the odd fa-la-la may not be out of place.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 18 November - 33rd of the Year

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK VII

Sunday 18	33rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 19	1.05pm	Mass	
	5.30pm	Gilbey Requiem (<i>Tridentine Mass</i>)	
Tuesday 20	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 21	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Presentation of BVM</i>
Thursday 22	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Cecilia, patron of music</i>
Friday 23	1.05pm	Mass	
Saturday 24	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Martyrs of Vietnam</i>
	4.30—5.30	Confessions	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 25	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING (CHRIST THE KING)		
	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 next Sunday, 25 November 2018, in the chapel following 11.00am Mass. Elections for positions on Council will take place at the meeting. We encourage as many as possible to be there for this important event.

GILBEY REQUIEM

The annual requiem for Mgr Gilbey will take place on Monday 19 November at 5.30pm. It will be followed by a reception.

TAIZE PRAYER

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

DANTE CIRCLE



Meeting in the Great Chamber on Wednesday 21 November at 5.30pm, to discuss together *Inferno 34* and *Purgatorio*

1. Texts will be provided.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Friday, over a light lunch, in the Fisher Room, 1.30pm.

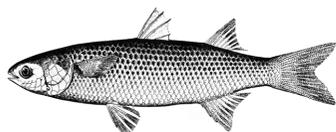
NOVEMBER DEAD LIST

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, complime and the bar. This week Professor Eamon Duffy will speak on *Catholicism and its Past*.

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.

INTERFAITH TALK

On Thursday at 7.30pm, there will be a talk on the Baha'i faith, in the Great Chamber. All are welcome.

SCRIPTURAL REASONING

On Sunday 18th Nov at 6pm Fisher House will host a Scriptural reasoning session—a friendly discussion between the members of Jewish, Islamic, Catholic and, Baha'i societies, focusing on a given theme in the Holy texts of each tradition

SALE OF CAKES

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLS



On Thursday 29 November, we shall be singing carols to raise funds for the SVP in Grand Arcade, from 3.00pm - 6.00pm. Gather in the Fisher Room from 2.30pm.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Carol Singing, on 29 November, will be followed by our Christmas Party - which will include a Revue of comedy sketches. All welcome, from 6.00pm.



COMPANIONS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

There will be an afternoon of recollection, led by Fr Edmund Montgomery, on Friday 23rd November in the Fisher Room, following rosary at 2.00pm. All are welcome.

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! Please ensure you have given your gift by 9 December.

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

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.

CAMBRIDGE FOOD BANK

Volunteers needed to collect from Tesco Fulbourn and Bar Hill on 29 & 30 Nov and 1 Dec. 90 minutes slots. For more information contact Susan O'Brien on so277@cam.ac.uk.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£384.41

Thank you!

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