

Coming to Rest in the Praise of God

In his bulletin reflection last week, Fr. Mark wrote about John Henry Newman's poem *The Dream of Gerontius*. This week, I want to say something about the music that Edward Elgar set to that poem. I heard Elgar's composition for the first time during a Catholicism and Art course at my undergraduate university, and I've been haunted by its climactic movement ever since! *Gerontius* is finally presented before the judgment seat of God. After all the vocal parts have faded out (there being nothing more to be said), the orchestra picks up a theme that builds and builds on itself until, for a split second, every instrument plays a single note as loud as it can, representing *the* moment in which *Gerontius* sees God face to face, and then the music retreats again into the background to allow the voice of *Gerontius* one last song.

The conjoining feasts of this past week, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, in part lead us to consider our own eternal destinies and what that moment will be like for us, seeing God face to face for the first time. Thinking along those lines for myself, I was reminded of a passage from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. "Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then everyone will receive his or her praise from God" (4:5).

While the context of the passage has more to do with the *parousia* than with individual judgment, I nevertheless can hear it applied to that uniquely intimate event. What will happen when we lay eyes on God? God will *praise* us! More precisely, God will praise that which God judges to be praiseworthy in us. Under certain circumstances, praise can be quite a terrible thing. For example, if I have spent my whole life priding myself on something that God ultimately judges to be inconsequential or unworthy, then it would feel dispossessing to be *actually* praised for something to the contrary, like gratuitous acts of kindness and mercy. I might even try to run away from such praise! However, praise can simultaneously be for that reason beatifying, since it lays bare and confirms one's fundamental likeness to the God whom we call Love. God looks on us *now* with a gaze that sees and evokes the saints we are called to be. When we're finally in a position to meet that gaze, God will praise that saint into his or her final flourishing.

Fr. Chase, csc



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 4 November - 31st of the Year

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK V

Sunday 4	31st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00am	Sung English Mass
Monday 5	1.05pm	Mass
Tuesday 6	1.05pm	Mass
Wednesday 7	1.05pm	Mass
Thursday 8	1.05pm	Mass
Friday 9	11.00am	Funeral Dr Eric Griffiths
Saturday 10	1.05pm	Mass
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 11	32ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	
	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
	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.

TAIZE PRAYER

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

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Ministers both new and old will be commissioned at all Masses this weekend. Please keep them in your prayers.

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 Fr James Bradley will speak on the Virgin Mary.

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.

CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES HOMELESSNESS PROJECT

Stephen Barwise, from OLEM, who helps organise this project, will speak briefly at Masses this weekend about how we can be involved over the Christmas period.

INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Come with dishes from your own tradition! This is always a lovely evening, and there are many discoveries to be made! Thursday 15 November at 7.30pm

GILBEY REQUIEM

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

ECUMENICAL AND INTER- -FAITH GROUP

This week, Jim East from Cambridge Baptist Church will speak about the Baptist Faith. He is an engaging and interesting speaker. Do come along at 7.30pm in the Great Chamber.

POST - DOCS

This week, we'd like our post-docs to stay behind after 11.00am Mass briefly, to discuss ways in which we can be a good community for you.

FUNERAL OF

DR ERIC GRIFFITHS

will take place on Friday at 11.00am, replacing the usual 1.05pm Mass.

FISHER SOCIETY FACE- BOOK 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.

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.

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS FESTIVAL

Saturday 10 November, at Stonyhurst College, Lancashire. Please see the notice board for details.

GRADSOC

Thursday November 8th, your chance to wiggle your hips with a Latin Dancing lesson. 7.45pm. Contact Marc on mb2187

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 Saturday 17 November. Please contact Fr Mark if you are interested in attending.

DAILY LUNCH

Available Mon-Fri in the Fisher Room after Mass, £1.50.

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