

## PATIENCE ....

**A**s I surveyed the tiny room, its walls long since having given up any relationship with white paint, its carpet worn and repulsively squelchy, I wondered what on earth I had done. These were my first hours at Magdalene, in 1979, and my nerves, which were considerable, were further frayed by the three flights of badly painted stairs, the smell coming from the kitchen on the way up and (it being Magdalene) the prone body of my neighbour, already drunk, over which I gingerly stepped. Stepping into the room, which at least had a pleasant view across the rooftops to St John's, I kicked something under the bed. It was a heavy rope. I laughed to myself - probably the fire escape! And then I realised it *was* the fire escape, to be tied to a leg of the bed in the event of an inferno.

The quality I find that I recommend most to students is *patience*. Patience: not to react too quickly to situations, not to set the temperature of your feelings about Cambridge by your first experiences, certainly not to act upon those early impressions. I had brains enough, back in 1979, to know that things would get better, and they did - very much better. For many of you, this is a baffling, bewildering, unfathomable time. Hang on in there.

God takes us up, and if he really intends to do something special with us, he sends us right outside our familiar surroundings and comfort zone. The shock of a new setting, of a beginning that offers no points of reference; the unsettling realisation that you are alone, and must face this by yourself; these are all the marks of transition, the pains of growth. One constant - God has you in the palm of his hand. He has guided you here, he will guide you still. In Cardinal Newman's words, *He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me - still He knows what He is about...*

Be patient: there are wonderful things ahead, the best time of your life, the greatest friends you will ever make, the thrill of learning. It will be with you sooner than you think!

*Fr Mark*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 1 October: 26th Sunday of the Year

### CALENDAR: INTO WEEK I

Sunday 1 October	<b>26th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass	
Monday 2	1.05 Mass	<i>Guardian Angels</i>
Tuesday 3	1.05 Mass	
Wednesday 4	1.05 Mass 12.30 Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	<i>St Francis of Assisi</i>
Thursday 5	1.05 Mass	
Friday 6	12.30 Mass 7.30 Evening Prayer	<i>St Bruno</i>
Saturday 7	1.05 Mass Mass for anniversary of Jeremy Howe 4.30 - 5.30 Confessions 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday	<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>
Sunday 8	<b>27TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass - Freshers' Mass	

MONS. MARK LANGHAM : SR ANN SWAILES OP : FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ

### **EVENING PRAYER**

At 7.30pm on Fridays, the perfect moment to end the week at this busy time.

### **COLLEGE REPS**

There will be drinks for all College Reps in the Great Chamber on Thursday 5 October, at 8.00pm.

### **ST MICHAEL'S FLOWERS**

Eagle-eyed botanists among you will notice the blue Michaelmas daisies on the Sanctuary. These are the gift of Fr David Stanley, who was assistant chaplain at Fisher House in the 1970s, and who celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of Ordination with Mass in the chapel on 29 September - the feast of the Archangel Michael. *Ad multos annos!*

### **JEREMY HOWE**

The 1.05pm Mass on Saturday 7 October will be offered for Jeremy Howe, whose anniversary occurs about this time.

### **STUDENT PILGRIMAGE TO OXFORD**

You've only just arrived .. but the Catholic University Chaplaincies are organising a pilgrimage to Oxford on 28 October. For further information see the poster, or contact Fr Mark.

### **TUESDAY TALKS**

A new Fisher House initiative: every Tuesday come for a cooked supper, followed by a talk on Catholic doctrine or life, some time of prayer, and then to the Black Swan Bar. First talk is on Tuesday 10 October, when Fr Mark will speak on 'Living a Catholic life at University.' All welcome.

### **GRADSOC EVENTS**

Fisher House's society for Graduates and Post-Docs, usually meets every Wednesday in the Fisher Room. See the notice board for the programme for the term. Please note:

- Graduate Welcome Dinner: Wednesday 4 October, Fisher Room, 7.00pm
- Film on the Terrace, Saturday 7 October 7.00pm.
- Graduate welcome drinks, Great Chamber, Wednesday 11 October, 8.00pm

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

Meeting every other Thursday in term, a chance to hear from key figures in other Christian traditions and faith communities. First talk at 7.30pm by Revd Boris Gunjević, tutor in philosophy of religion at Westfield House, on Lutheranism.

### **WEBSITE**

Remember that there is an up-to-date calendar of services and events on the Fisher House website.

### **FRESHERS' WEEK**

- After Mass today, join us for tea and cakes in the Fisher Room after Mass
- Don't forget to look out for the Fisher House team at the Freshers' Fair. We are in the tent on Parkers' Piece.
- From Monday to Friday, tea and cakes will be available in the Fisher Room - do come and join us!
- On Friday, come to the Black Swan Bar at 8.00pm (first drink free for Freshers') and then enjoy your first Cambridge pub-crawl with members of the Fisher Society.
- Next Sunday, a buffet lunch will be provided following 11.00am Mass. All are welcome.
- On Friday 13 October, come to the Black Swan Bar in the Fisher Room for our own Societies' fair, and see the different groups and societies running at Fisher House.

### **NEW CARD SYSTEM**

You need to register your University Card with us to have access to the Fisher Room and library. Please fill in one of the forms available outside the chapel, and leave it in the box, or hand it to a chaplain.

### **BLACK SWAN BAR**

Our very own bar, in the Fisher Room, open every Friday evening from 8.30pm, and on other occasions. A great selection of beers and spirits, at excellent prices!



### **BENSON CLUB**

Fisher House's book club. This term we read Evelyn Waugh's classic 'Brideshead Revisited'. We will meet to discuss it on Thursday 19 October.

### **FILM CLUB**

We are making things easy for you: on Sunday nights, we will be showing Granada TV's *Brideshead Revisited* - widely acknowledged as one of the first TV adaptations of all time.

### **WE CAN MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER**

We have two choirs: the Schola sings at the 9.00am Latin Mass; the English Choir at the 11.00am Mass. If you would care to join, contact James Martin (Schola) on jwm51, or James Grimwood (English choir) on jag217.

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

**£401.88**

Thank you!