

‘TRUST THE MAGIC OF BEGINNINGS’

Meister Eckhart’s words may seem crafted for motivational posters in open-plan offices in Slough, but there is a great truth in them. In one sense, no beginning is new: we have, all of us, made many new beginnings in our lives, and shall undoubtedly make more. Each day brings a beginning; Jeremiah allowed himself a rare moment of consolation by remembering that the faithfulness of God is renewed every morning. Each new school, university, institution - and within that each new academic year, indeed each term - renews hope within us, bestows on us a fresh enthusiasm. When are we most likely (or least unlikely) to polish our shoes? To buy a new pencil case? To tidy our desk? At the beginning of a new year, a new term, a new project, when enthusiasm once more courses through our veins and fires our imaginations.

Yet there is not also something futile in this? We know our new beginnings - even the most notable of them - will soon become hum-drum and routine. This new chapter in Cambridge will, as the weeks pass, become a way of life, a familiar pattern. However sincere our resolutions (particularly New Year’s resolutions), do they not all go the same way? Is it not true that beginnings are dreams; beguiling, but ultimately empty promises. Graham Greene pinpointed the illusory aspect of beginning: “A story has no beginning or end: arbitrarily one chooses that moment of experience from which to look back or from which to look ahead.”

Yet at the heart of the Christian faith is the ever present possibility of beginning. Indeed, it is the key to the Christian message. “Repent, and believe in the gospel!” said Our Lord; in other words, begin afresh, leave the past behind. For that reason, beginnings are sacramentally highlighted in the Church; baptism, marriage, even confession - new beginnings where God’s grace is especially present. A true beginning means a readiness to set aside the present, to pick oneself up, to take a risk. A true beginning is to be aware that there may be failures, setbacks, the danger of falling back into old ways, yet nevertheless to dare to step forth. Bless you all at this beginning, whatever it means for you; it is one step closer to your fulfilment, one step closer to heaven.



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 12 October - 28th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

CALENDAR

Sunday 12		TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR <i>No Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) this week</i> 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Welcome Mass—Sung English <i>Followed by a buffet lunch in the Fisher Room</i>	
Monday 13	12.30	Mass	St Edward the Confessor
Tuesday 14	1.05	Mass	
Wednesday 15	1.05	Mass	St Teresa of Jesus 12.30 <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 16	1.05	Mass	
Friday 17	1.05 7.30	Mass Mass	St Ignatius of Antioch
Saturday 18	1.05 4.30—5.30 6.00	Mass <i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass of Sunday	St Luke, evangelist
Sunday 19		TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 8.00 Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass	

TERM CARDS

Term cards are available this week— please take one.

FRIDAY 7.30pm MASS

This celebration of Mass in a more informal style takes place each Friday, with the Black Swan bar open afterwards.

FISHER HOUSE LIBRARY

There is now a Catholic Fiction section of the library—do explore! The library is open whenever Fisher House is open, and all students are welcome.

WEBSITE

Check out the new Fisher House website, and its many sections! We hope to expand it further during the coming months.

www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse

FACEBOOK

Keep up to date with announcements on the Fisher Society Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/fishersociety/

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

We need to re-establish a rota to count the Sunday collection every week—including during vacation. This can be done at any time from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday. If you can help, please write your name and email address on the list on the notice board.

FRESHERS' EVENTS

Friday 17 October: **Mass**, 7.30pm, followed by **Fisher House Societies' Fair** and Bar night.

Sunday 19 October: **Mass** followed by lunch, free for Freshers.

FISHER SOCIETIES' FAIR

After Mass on Friday evening, with the bar open, there is a chance to see some of the groups, ministries and organisations that are part of life at Fisher House.

GRADUATE SOCIETY

Drinks to welcome Graduates, in the Great Chamber, 8.00pm, Wednesday 15 October. There is a sign-up form on the board outside the chapel if you would like to be part of the Graduate society, or contact Hugh Burling (hdpb2).

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

A series of talks over lunch on Mondays, given by Fr Mark in the Fisher Room at 1.15, on a range of topics to do with Catholicism. This week: *How long have Catholics been in Cambridge?*

ABORTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

Tuesday 14 October, 6.45pm: talk by Patricia Casey (professor of psychology) in the Castleraeagh Room, St John's. Patricia sits on the Iona Institute, a Catholic advocacy group in Ireland.

REGISTRATION FORM

If you are new to Fisher House, in any capacity, please fill in the a registration form outside the chapel, and leave it in the box, give it to a chaplain, or post it through the letter box.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Meets every Friday (*nb* change of time) at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room, helping those in Cambridge less fortunate than ourselves. Contact Fiona Doherty (ftd21)

ROSARY LEGION OF MARY

The Rosary is prayed in the Chapel on Saturdays at 5.30pm, Sundays after the 11am Mass, and Tuesdays and Thursdays after 1.05pm Mass. FisherHouseRosary@gmail.com

FISHER BITES

The chaplaincy counts among its members some extraordinary academic authorities. *Fisher Bites* will be an occasional series of informal talks, given by our senior members, on art, culture, literature and history. Talks will be held in the library, and wine will be served. See notice board for details.

ALTAR SERVERS

If you would like to serve at Sunday or weekday Mass, please contact Natalia Deja (nad35).

EXTRAORDINARY FORM

The 8.00am Extraordinary Form Mass recommences on 19 October.

LUNCH is available in the Fisher Room every weekday during term, for £1.50.

ENGLISH MASS CHOIR

Singing at the 11.00 Mass on Sundays, with a practice on Sunday mornings at 10.00. New members always welcome. Contact Stephen Bick (sb982)

SCHOLA CANTORUM

Providing Gregorian chant and polyphony for the 9.00 Latin Mass each Sunday. New members always welcome. Contact Jonathan Schranz (js2041)

FRIDAY NIGHT CHOIR

If you are a singer or instrumentalist and would like to help in the Friday evening Mass, please contact Stephen Bick (sb982).

COLLEGE MASSES

Trinity 24 October 6.30pm
Queens' 29 October 6.15pm
Clare 3 November 6.00pm
Robinson 18 November 6.30pm
Selwyn 27 November 6.30pm

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£427.92

Thank you!