

ST CECILIA, PATRON OF MUSIC

Faithfulness is manifest in song; the righteous make a merry noise. *"Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness"*, exhorts Psalm 30, in a sentiment capturing the very essence of the Book of Psalms itself.

Silence, on the other hand, is the hall-mark of sin; the inability to sing the praise of God is the evidence of, and punishment for, disobedience to the Lord. Zechariah was struck dumb for his lack of belief in the promises of God, and his voice returned only when he had demonstrated his trust in the divine plan. His first act following his miraculous recovery was to praise God in song. Throughout the scriptures, inability to speak is proof of demonic possession: *"Master, I have brought my son to you, there is a spirit of dumbness in him."* The Psalms are forthright on the curse of silence. The inability to praise is equated with death; either a physical death - *"In the grave, who can give thee thanks?"* or the spiritual death of life in God *"Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence."*

To break forth in song is the natural response to God, who himself banishes silence: *"Our God comes, he shall not keep silence."* To faithful Jews, the need to sing was compelling. The very word 'Psalm' means a 'song', so that to our Jewish forebears, our taste for its spoken recitation is all but incomprehensible. To pray without music is to swim without water; you can't get anywhere, you lack the medium of motion. And so, whether in joy or sorrow, whether in the Temple in Jerusalem or in exile in Babylon, the People of God sang their way through the ages. Whatever the situation, prayer was always praise, and praise was always song. Music banished the silence of non-being; only music was worthy of God.

Perhaps it is the structure in music that allows it to be so creative, so filled with God. In itself, it bears the stamp of God - who is beyond all structure, all measure and definition, but who chose to enter into structure to share our human experience. In Jesus Christ, God took on form, structure, in order that we might hear his music. If the Incarnation makes visible the face of God, it also makes audible the sound of heaven. Music is our attempt to incarnate the praise of heaven, to echo on earth the song of the angels and saints. In music, our lips, unfettered, en flesh the continual chants of the angels, of St Cecilia and of all the saints in paradise, so that we may be one with them in proclaiming the praise and the glory of God.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 16 November – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

CALENDAR

Sunday 16	33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
	8.00	Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass.
Monday 17	12.30	Mass St Hilda/St Hugh of Lincoln
	6.30	Gilbey Requiem: Extraordinary Form
Tuesday 18	1.05	Mass
Wednesday 19	1.05	Mass
	12.30	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 20	1.05	Mass
Friday 21	1.05	Mass Presentation of the BVM
	7.30	Mass & All Night Vigil
Saturday 22	1.05	Mass St Cecilia
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 23	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	
	8.00	Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass. <i>Cel: The Papal Nuncio</i>

GILBEY REQUIEM

The annual Mass for Monsignor Gilbey, chaplain from 1936 to 1966, will take place on Monday at 6.30pm. It is a Requiem in the Extraordinary Form. All are welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

A book of remembrance will be left outside the chapel for you to record names of those you wish prayed for during November. They will be remembered at Mass throughout the month.

CARDINAL VINCENT

Cardinal Vincent Nichols is preaching at Peterhouse evensong tonight at 6.00pm. Less thrillingly, Fr Mark is preaching at Trinity Hall.

FACEBOOK & WEBSITE

Keep up to date with announcements on the Fisher Society Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/fishersociety/ - and don't forget to check out the new Fisher House website, with its calendar of events www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse

MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday 30 November, 8.00pm in the Fisher Room, the searing and thought-provoking 'Calvary'. All welcome. Popcorn provided.

INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Next Saturday, at 7.00pm, an evening of international cuisine. Bring a dish, or just come along. See poster outside chapel for details.

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: *What do Catholics say about stem cell research?*

VISIT TO IMPERIAL CATH-SOC

On Saturday 29 November, a day in London visiting the Cath-Soc at Imperial College, with lunch at the chaplaincy, and a tour of the Cathedral and Brompton Oratory. Contact Silvana Wijaya (sw627) or cf the Fisher Society on Facebook.

FISHER FAMILIES

A new group for those with bumps, babies and little children, meeting on Mondays from 3.00pm - 4.30pm in Sr Ann's room. Meet other Catholic families, eat cake, and bring along something to play with or read together. Contact Irenka Lennon (wmis2)

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

THE PAPAL NUNCIO

The 11.00am Mass next Sunday will be celebrated by HE Antonio Menini, the Papal Nuncio (the Pope's representative in Great Britain). Following Mass there will be an opportunity to meet him over coffee in the Fisher Room.

FOOTBALL: THE VARSITY MATCH

The match against the Oxford chaplaincy takes place 29 November in Oxford. Please sign outside the chapel if you wish to take part.

SAINTS AND SCONES

On Sunday afternoon, comes to Fisher House to learn about saints while enjoying a traditional Devonshire Cream Tea.

PILGRIMAGE TO PRAGUE

There will be a Fisher House pilgrimage to Prague 6—10 December. Please see Sr Ann (acs92) if interested.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TRUST

We hope to take 6-8 disabled children to Lourdes in Easter week this year, 5/6 April to 11/12 April 2015. If interested please get in touch with Sarah Leiter (sml45).

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£578.86

Thank you!

MASS AT ROBINSON

On Tuesday, at 6.30pm. For your diaries, Mass at Selwyn 27 November 6.30pm.

GRADUATE SOCIETY

John Battle, former Labour Member of Parliament and campaigner on social issues, will speak to the Graduate Society on Wednesday at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL

Following the 7.30pm Mass next Friday, there will be an all night vigil of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament until 5.30pm Saturday. Please sign up to watch, on the list outside the chapel.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Tonight, at 8.30pm in the Cambridge Brew House on King's Street, Sr Ann will discuss *Eccelesiology: What it is and why we need it*.

ADVENT CONCENT

On Friday 28 November, 8.00pm a concert of music for Advent performed by Jonathan Frantzen, and featuring world premieres by Stephen Bick. All welcome.

STUDY EVENING

at Margaret Beaufort Institute, Grange Road: *Bound by the Bible: Jews, Christians and the Binding of Isaac*. 11 December,