

MARY'S MONTH

"May is Mary's month" remarks the Jesuit priest and poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, in his poem, *the May Magnificat*. But, he wonders, why? After all, there's usually a reason for liturgical feasts falling when they do, and the Church's recalling of events in the life of Mary is no exception: the Presentation of her Firstborn in the Temple comes forty days after his birth, as required by the Law of Moses: we celebrate Christmas exactly 9 months to the day from the Annunciation, when the Lord takes flesh in the Virgin's womb. But: *The Lady month, May/Why fasten that upon her/With a feasting in her honour?*

Fr Hopkins suggests two answers to his question. In the first place, spring is the time of *growth in everything in flesh and fleece, fur and feather/grass and greenworld all together*. We can see in the fecundity and freshness of nature in spring an image of Mary, pregnant with the new life that will bring salvation to a wintry world grown old. May-time growth in everything, then, reminds us of the growth of the Saviour enfolded in Mary's flesh, and should impel us to give thanks, as Mary herself gives thanks in her own Magnificat when she sings praise to the Lord present within her. But what is particularly important for Hopkins is not just that things grow, but that, in the process, they grow into themselves, become ever more clearly the things they are made to be, "magnifying each their kind", as he puts it. Mary, conceived without sin is, of course, what human beings are made to be. We can look to her not only as an example of what we hope to become, though of course she is that, par excellence, but also – because this is what human beings are meant to be – as the channel through which the love of God flows to us unimpeded to enable us to become what we are meant to be. And in this, something tremendously hopeful is revealed.

Mary's maternal love, which Hopkins depicts as extending beyond humanity to all of creation, is no grimly dutiful affair. She does not love us because she has to. Her love for us, and for the world, partakes in what Hopkins calls "spring's universal bliss", a seeing the world, and us within it, as lovely, as lovely as birdsong in an orchard heavy with fruit blossom. If the one whose vision is unclouded by original sin sees us thus, perhaps reflecting on that might begin to correct our faulty vision of ourselves, and of each other.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 21 May: 6th Sunday of Easter

CALENDAR: WEEK IV OF TERM

Sunday 21	6th SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass	
Monday 22	1.05 Mass	
Tuesday 23	1.05 Mass	
Wednesday 24	1.05 Mass 12.30 <i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Thursday 25	1.05 Mass	<i>St Bede the Venerable</i>
Friday 26	12.30 Mass 7.30 <i>Compline</i>	<i>St Philip Neri</i>
Saturday 27	1.05 Mass (EF) 4.30 - 5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday	<i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>
Sunday 28	ASCENSION OF THE LORD 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass	

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

SYNOD YOUTH POLL

In preparation for the 2018 General Synod in Rome on 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment', Pope Francis has asked for consultation with young people. The Bishops of England and Wales have issued an online survey and it would be good for you to take part:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cathnews-synod-youth-poll

CHRISTIAN UNION VISIT

A group from Fisher House will attend the Christian Union central meeting next Saturday the 27th in the Eden Baptist Church at 7.30pm, departing Fisher House at 7.15pm. The topic will be *'Worry - a godly approach to exams'*.

MORNING PRAYER

begins tomorrow for the exam period, at 8.00am.

COMPLINE

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

MONASTIC VESPERS AT MAGDALENE

Benedictine Monks return to Magdalene, after a break of some 500 years, to sing monastic vespers next Sunday. 6.00pm (but likely to be very crowded, so get there early!).

PILGRIMAGE TO STONE

Next Saturday, 27 May, there will be a pilgrimage to Sr Ann's mother house, the historic convent at Stone, in Staffordshire. Leaving Cambridge at 7.45am, and returning at 8.30pm. Cost £15 (please bring a packed lunch). Full details on the notice board outside the chapel.

GRADSOC

The GradSoc meets next Wednesday (24 May), for a trip to the Cambridge Beer Festival. Not to be missed! Contact Lydia (lch46).

... AND MORE

The weekly GradSoc thesis and dissertation (or generally study) support group/workshop/stress relief session meets on Thursday at 3.00pm in the Fisher Room for tea, biscuits and a shoulder to cry on.

KOLB FUND

A fund making grants to Catholic women for a variety of purposes, including study materials and travel. It is really worthwhile looking at it: see the Kolb Memorial Trust page on the website.

TEA AND SYMPATHY

There will be tea and cakes available on Tuesday in the Fisher Room at 4.00pm.

And don't forget Sr Ann's open office on Friday; drop in for tea and a chat (and lots of cake) at any time between 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

THE FISHER DINNER

The social event of the Chaplaincy year takes place at Peterhouse on Thursday 15 June. Dinner at 7.00pm, preceded by drinks at Fisher House at 6.00pm.

Ticket prices are £35 for dinner with wine, £29 for just dinner.

There are only 110 places for dinner, so sign up either online via the Fisher Society Facebook page, or on the sheet outside the chapel.

The Dinner will of course be followed by the all-night Fisher Party - an extravaganza of games, music, dancing, entertainment and gelato!

NEW CARD SYSTEM

We are now uploading names on to the new system.

The Fisher Room and Library are primarily spaces intended for students, during term time, however, if you have a special reason for access, please contact Fr Mark.

Access to the chapel will still be by the code system at the main doors. To get to daily Mass, you need do nothing different.

On Sunday mornings, access to the Fisher Room will be open to all.

FILM NIGHT

On Sunday, 8.00pm in the Fisher Room, *The Mission*, the epic story of the Jesuit *Reductions* in South America, and the political greed blinkered vision that destroyed them. Starring Robert de Nero and Jeremy Irons. Bring and share snacks. Popcorn provided.

CAROLINE DIVINE READING GROUP

Meeting on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.00pm in the Great Chamber, to discuss the writings of these great 17th century theologians. Contact Michael Miller (mhl2). Over a glass of wine, naturally.

THE TABLET

The upcoming issue will feature an interview with four of our students, on such non-controversial topics as Brexit and the General Election. Copy available in the library.

BLACK SWAN BAR

Open on Friday, in the Fisher Room following Compline, with an extraordinary selection of craft beers, gins and whisk(e)y.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£418.13

Thank you!