

TO BE CONFIRMED ...

When we use the word “confirm”, we are usually talking about moving from a “definite maybe” to a “yes”, making a provisional agreement absolute, signing on the dotted line. A click of the mouse confirms our decision to buy a train ticket or a text book. I think I’m free for supper tomorrow, we say, but can I confirm with you later?

It’s tempting to think of the *sacrament* of Confirmation in the same way. When we were baptized, most of us were in no position to make a definite commitment to the challenges and joys of life in Christ. Confirmation, later on, is our chance to speak for ourselves; to say our own “yes”, in a grown-up voice, to the faith of the Church, confirming, of our own free will, our acceptance of the identity chosen for us by our parents and godparents when we were babies. Confirmation certainly does give us the opportunity to make our own the promises made then on our behalf. But the heart of the matter is rather different and more exciting. One way of thinking about this is in terms of grammar: of the difference between the active and the passive voice. At our confirmation, we are not the ones doing the confirming; we are being confirmed. In one sense, we are not doing *anything* at our confirmation: like all the sacraments, confirmation is a gift. And gifts are to be received, not achieved.

What are we given in Confirmation? That’s a slightly misleading question, because the gift of Confirmation is not something, but someone.

The prayer used at confirmation talks of being confirmed – strengthened, in other words – with the Holy Spirit. Just as the apostles on the day of Pentecost received the Holy Spirit and were sent out, newly strengthened and energised, to preach the good news to the whole world, so at Confirmation we are given God’s strength and energy so that we too can spread that message to those whom we meet.

The Holy Spirit is not some impersonal force, invading us and taking over our rationality. The wind and fire of Pentecost are rather signs of the presence of the living God of love, who, insofar as we will let him, lives in us, breathes in us, shaping us ever more fully into his own image so that those who encounter us, encounter him.

Confirmation then, our personal Pentecost, is not simply about our making a decision for Jesus. Far more, it is about his decision for us. It is our assurance that God, Father, Son and Spirit, wants us, not as servants, but as beloved sons and daughters, sharing his very life, and sharing, too, in the communication of that life to others.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28th February - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK VII

Sunday 28	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00am	Sung English Mass
Monday 29	12.30pm	Mass
	6.45pm	Messe en Français
Tuesday 1	1.05pm	Mass St David, Patron of Wales
Wednesday 2	1.05pm	Mass
	12.30pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 3	1.05pm	Mass
Friday 4	1.05pm , 7.30pm	Mass
	<i>24 Hours for the Lord begins 12.00Night Fever 8.00pm - 11.00pm</i>	
Saturday 5	1.05	Mass in EF
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 6	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE)	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ

www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse/

SVP VISITS

The SVP Group is beginning a new initiative, to visit the elderly in their homes. If you would like to be part of this, or if you (or someone you know) would like a visit, please sign up on the list outside chapel.

SVP PRAYER PARTNERS

This Lent, the SVP invite you to consider adopting a prayer partner. For more information come to a short meeting and prayer service on Sunday night at 6.30pm, or see Fee Doherty or Sr Ann for more details.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

Our Lenten appeal supports CAFOD in seeking to provide water to communities in Africa without it. There is a collection basket outside the chapel.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

There will be no study this week, but we will reassemble on Monday 7 March.

HOW TO EVANGELISE

On Tuesday 15 March at 6:15pm at Blackfriars, there will be Vespers followed by a talk from Fr Nick Crowe on the theme 'How to evangelise.' The event will conclude with a Buffet.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

There are still some places (but not many!) remaining for the pilgrimage to Walsingham on 14 March. We will visit the Catholic shrine and the Door of Mercy, and walk to the ruins of the medieval priory. Cost £10. Please sign up on the board outside the chapel.

SEMINAR ON ANGLICAN-CATHOLIC DIALOGUE

On 1 March at 4.00pm in the Bennet Room at Clare College, Fr Mark will be speaking at a seminar to mark 50 years of an official Anglican-Catholic dialogue. All are welcome.

CATHOLICS AND MIGRATION

On Tuesday 8 March, Peter Sutherland, UN Representative for Immigration and advisor to the Government on Immigration, will lead a discussion on the immigration crisis, 5.00pm Fisher Room.

COMPLINE

Compline is sung in chapel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9.00pm; Fridays at 9.30pm.

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

A series of talks over lunch on Monday at 1.15pm, by Fr Mark. This week: *'What is prayer?'*

LA MESSE EN FRANÇAIS

On Monday at 6.45pm. Fr Philippe will celebrate Mass in French.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Friday 11 March (last Friday of term) a special Stations of the Cross will be held, with meditations and poems written and read by members of Fisher House. If you would like to take part, please contact Stephen Bick on sb982.

TAIZE EVENT

An ecumenical Taize event will be held in the chapel on Monday 7 March at 9.00pm. All welcome.

FRUGAL FRIDAY & CAFOD

A cookbook produced at Fisher House, containing dozens of easy recipes. On sale after Mass at £7 (includes £1 donation to CAFOD's Lent charity). Cheques to CUCA (nb).

ARC UK

Would you like to act as a tour guide in a European Cathedral during the summer? See the notice outside the chapel, or visit www.encounterarc.org.uk

SAINTS AND SCONES

This week – a chance to come and talk about mercy in the life of your favourite saint over a traditional cream tea. 4.30pm, Sr Ann's room.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

In response to the call of Pope Francis, we will hold 24 hours' adoration from Friday 4 to Saturday 5 March. Please sign up to watch before the Blessed Sacrament during this time.

NIGHT FEVER

As part of the 24 Hours for the Lord, Night Fever will be held on Friday from 8.00pm to 11.00pm, inviting people into the chapel to light a candle, and offer a prayer. Please sign up on the list on the board.

DANTE CIRCLE

On Monday at 6.00pm in the Great Chamber, Professor Kirkpatrick will lead discussion of 'Remembering Sin'. All welcome, texts provided, and no knowledge of Italian needed.

THE SPIRIT OF ST DOMINIC

To conclude our short series on different religious orders, Sr Ann will speak on St Dominic and his followers on March 3 at 7.30pm in the Fisher Room.

CONCERT 12 MARCH

An organ recital in aid of Christians in Syria will be given in the chapel at 7.30pm.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£397.30

Thank you!