

A SAD MILESTONE

We mark this week a painful anniversary - 50 years since the UK Abortion Act came into force. It is not merely the thousands of deaths of unborn children that we mourn (that is the major catastrophic outcome of the Act), but the de-sensitising of our society to issues of unborn life, at all its stages - healthy or non-healthy, able or disabled - that is tragic.

It is a confused and confusing picture. Even as abortions increase, so does the number of couples willing to go to extraordinary lengths to conceive a child. The current Law permits the abortion of a disabled child up until birth - and yet the respect for disabled people has never been greater, as witness the London Paralympic games of 2012, which seemed to many like a sort of 'secular Lourdes'. Again, the rights and protections afforded to children and vulnerable adults is greater than ever - apart from before birth.

Yet, as our Bishops have pointed out, we must not oversimplify the context in which the decision to have an abortion is made. No one, it can be assumed, undertakes to have an abortion lightly; those I have met who are considering it are frightened, alone, or in family or social contexts that seem to leave them no other course of action. The Bishops rightly note that this can constrain their freedom, and limit their culpability. We do no service to our cause if we simplify issues, objectifying those who undergo abortions, labelling them, judging them.

At the heart of the current situation seems to be the exaltation of the notion of 'choice', a freedom to choose, even at the expense of the respect due to every human life. Choice - which really means 'my desire' - seems paramount, disconnected from any other perspectives or values. 'Choice' must always take into account the consequences of our choice

Arguments about when life, or personhood, begin can obscure the basic reality - that from the moment of conception, there is a new reality, something distinct from its parents and greater than the elements that created it. It is how we all began; it is life at its most simple, most vulnerable. It is becoming increasingly difficult to say this, or to be allowed to say this. If we are not willing even to consider the value of such a life, if we are not prepared to extend to the weakest and defenceless our protection, then what dignity are we placing on human life at all? What sort of society are we creating?

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 29 October: 30th Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR: WEEK IV OF TERM

Sunday 29	30th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 30	1.05 Mass (also 6.30pm Mass at Magdalene)
Tuesday 31	1.05 Mass
Wednesday 1	ALL SAINTS Holy Day of Obligation Masses at : 8.00am, 1.05pm, 6.00pm <i>No Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 2	1.05 Mass ALL SOULS
Friday 3	1.05 Mass St Martin de Porres 7.30 <i>Exposition, Evening Prayer & Reflection</i>
Saturday 4	1.05 Mass EF <i>St Charles Borromeo</i> 4.30 - 5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 5	31st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass

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

DICK WHITTINGTON

We have a few parts still available for our Pantomime, to be performed on 30 November. In particular, we need a stage manager. If interested, see Fr Mark (ml709).

MASS AT MAGDALENE

Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at Magdalene College on Monday, at 6.30pm. It will be followed by a reception. All are welcome.

CAFOD

The CAFOD group meets on Sundays at 12.15pm in the Library for 45 minutes to discuss Pope Francis' teaching on the Care of Creation. This week we are looking at CAFOD's experience battling the elements around the world. All are welcome to join us.

TRIDENTINE MASS (EF)

A requiem will be celebrated for Prof. Jonathan Riley-Smith, whose anniversary falls at this time, next Saturday 4 November at 1.05pm. Mass will be in the Extraordinary Form (Tridentine).

DAILY LUNCH

Lunch is provided each day in the Fisher Room, priced an incredible £1.50, from 1.00pm.

TUESDAY TALKS:

APOLOGIA

This week, Daniel de Haan will speak on *The Image of God: Persons, Souls, Brains and Zombies*. All welcome. Dinner at 7.00pm, talk at 7.45pm, followed by Compline and Bar.

CONSIDER YOUR CALL

A group for those thinking about religious life or priesthood, to pray, discuss and support each other. Meeting in the Great Chamber on Thursday 9 November at 4.00pm

HCPT - THE CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TRUST

Each year HCPT takes 2000 disabled children to Lourdes for a pilgrimage in Easter week. The Cambridge Group hopes to take up to children this year. This pilgrimage relies on volunteer carers. It is an amazing way to spend Easter week in Lourdes and to have a lot of fun. The provisional dates are 1st April to 7th April 2018. If interested please contact Margaret Duff on md669.

SR ANN'S OPEN OFFICE

Drop in for tea, cake, conversation. Friday afternoons, anytime between 3.00pm and 5.00pm.



ALL SAINTS DAY

Wednesday is All Saints' Day, and is a holyday of Obligation when we should attend Mass. Masses are at 8.00am, 1.05pm and 6.00pm.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF UK ABORTION ACT

On this anniversary, our prayer is for all whose innocent lives have been taken during these 50 years; for all who have suffered trauma through abortion; for a conversion of hearts and minds with regard to the God-given dignity of every human life; for God's mercy on us all.

CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES' HOMELESS PROJECT

If you will be here over the Christmas holiday, or want to help early in the new year with this project, please contact Stephen Barwise on stephenbarwise@btinternet.com

INTERFAITH SABBATH

You are invited to take part in an interfaith sabbath on November 10th, at 6.00pm. Dinner will be served afterwards (optional, but recommended). £5 Meet at Fisher House 5.45, or for the dinner for 7.00pm at 3, Thompson's Lane. Contact Michael Miller on mhlm2

CUCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The CUCA Annual General Meeting will be held at 12:00 on 26 November 2017. Elections for positions on CUCA Council will take place at the AGM. The following positions are to be filled: President;

Secretary (Dr Mark Retter standing for election); Treasurer (Dr Damian Crowther standing for re-election); Librarian (Ms Alex Browne standing for re-election); three Ordinary Members.

If you wish to stand for election for one of these positions, please contact the Acting Secretary at least 7 days before the meeting and arrange for your nomination to be proposed and seconded. For all enquiries, please contact: cuca_secretary@fisherhouse.org.uk.

BENSON CLUB

We are reading Graham Greene's masterpiece *The Power and the Glory*. Every Catholic should have read this book! We will discuss it on Saturday 25 November.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£364.18

Thank you!