

COME HOLY SPIRIT!

Come, Holy Spirit! How often we say or sing these words at this time of year - but do we know what, or rather who, we are asking for? In one sense the answer is 'no'. The Holy Spirit is God, and our finite minds can never grasp the totality of who God is: if they could, we would be greater than God, and that makes no sense. But there is something about the Holy Spirit that makes people nervous. The slightly uncanny images conjured up by the very word *Spirit* may be part of the problem. At first sight, the sheer drama of what is going on when the Spirit descends with wind and flame at Pentecost is indeed alarming. But if we hold these images together with our starting point (that the Holy Spirit is truly God, and not some weird, impersonal power) then a different, and more consoling picture emerges. **Wind** can, of course, do violence: tearing tiles from rooftops, uprooting trees. And the presence of God in our lives can have similarly radical effects: overturning settled patterns of thought and behaviour. But such divine disturbance is never destructive: the Holy Spirit who comes at Pentecost is the same Spirit who broods over the waters at creation, bringing order from chaos – and so it will be for us, too, if we allow him entrance into our hearts. **Fire**, meanwhile, has long been understood as a symbol not so much of God's power as of his love: think, for instance, of the imagery associated with the Sacred Heart of Jesus; a heart surrounded by flames. It was that love that was poured out on the apostles in the Upper Room, impelling them out into Jerusalem and the world to share it with others.

But behind even these concerns, I suspect, for some of us, lies another. We are simply afraid that, if we let him, the Holy Spirit will overwhelm us, taking away our freedom and perhaps even our identity. St Thomas Aquinas once speculated on why, when the apostles need to find a replacement for Judas, Matthias is chosen, not after careful debate, but seemingly at random, by casting lots. It happened like this, he says, because it was before Pentecost, and the apostles' powers of reasoning were simply not up to the job. The Spirit whom Jesus promised, on the other hand, will lead them into all truth, imbuing their decision making with clarity. And this in turn will make them more free, more themselves, since it will more closely conform them to the God in whose image they, like we, are made. So, the Holy Spirit is the one who endows us with the compassion of God himself, who does not override but expands our rationality, and enables us to discern the divine will. Not a bad thing to bear in mind when exams – or elections – loom.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 4 June: Pentecost Sunday

CALENDAR: WEEK VI OF TERM

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|-------------|--|--------------------|
| Sunday 4 | PENTECOST SUNDAY 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass | |
| Monday 5 | 1.05 Mass | <i>St Boniface</i> |
| Tuesday 6 | 1.05 Mass | <i>St Norbert</i> |
| Wednesday 7 | 1.05 Mass 12.30 <i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i> | |
| Thursday 8 | 1.05 Mass | |
| Friday 9 | 12.30 Mass 7.30 <i>Compline</i> | <i>St Columba</i> |
| Saturday 10 | 1.05 Mass 4.30 - 5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday | |
| Sunday 11 | TRINITY SUNDAY 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass | |

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

SOCCER GLORY



Don't forget to turn up to Jesus College on Saturday at 2.30pm to support the Fisher House football team against the Oxford Chaplaincy, as they battle for the More/Fisher Cup.

GRADSOC

The GradSoc meets next Wednesday for beer and discussion in *Theology on Tap* with Rev James Buxton, Dean of Corpus Christi College, who will speak on '*A college story - continuity and change in sixteenth century Corpus.*'

... AND MORE

The weekly GradSoc thesis and dissertation 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.

SYNOD YOUTH POLL

The Church wants to hear the opinion of young adults ahead of the Synod on Young People next year. Go to www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cathnews-synod-youth-poll

CONSIDER YOUR CALL

There will be a meal, meeting and prayer for those considering vocation to religious life and priesthood, on Tuesday 13 June at 7.30pm.

MASS AT CAIUS COLLEGE

A Missa Cantata in honour of the Catholic martyrs of Gonville and Caius College will be celebrated in Caius College Chapel at 5.30pm on Wednesday 7th June. The Celebrant will be Fr. Alban McCoy, OFM, Conv. Dean of St Edmund's College, and the Preacher will be Professor Richard Rex. Doctors are invited to wear scarlet.

CASTLE ACRE AND OXBURGH HALL

A day trip by coach to see a magnificent monastic ruin and a 15th century moated house (with priest's hole). Saturday 24 June, cost £12. Please sign up outside the chapel if interested.

COLLEGE REPS



If you are leaving Cambridge this year, please nominate another rep for your College and let Fr Mark know.

ELECTION NIGHT PARTY



We have a big screen, and lots of space for self-expression. Come and join the excitement of election night in the Fisher Room, from 10.15pm.

THE FISHER DINNER

Tickets for the dinner on 15 June are now sold out. However, the dinner will of course be followed by the all-night Fisher Party - an extravaganza of games, music, dancing, entertainment and gelato!

CAMBRIDGE STREET PASTORS

Every Friday and Saturday night, volunteer Street Pastors help anyone on our streets in any kind of distress. They do magnificent work getting students out of trouble, and helping to make Cambridge city centre a safer place. There will be a collection for their work after Masses this weekend.

NEW CARD SYSTEM

We are currently uploading names on to the new system. It will take a few weeks to put all the names on the system, and the card entry will not operate until then.

FILM NIGHT

On Sunday, 8.00pm in the Fisher Room, *Stardust*, a delightful and magical escapist movie, perfect for this time of year. Bring and share snacks.

BLACK SWAN BAR

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

BOOK RECALL



Please return any books you have borrowed from the library before the end of term, or the dogs will be set upon you.

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.

TAIZE PRAYER

There will be a Taize prayer group in the chapel on Monday at 9.00pm.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£488.29

Thank you!