

AN ECUMENICAL WINTER?

Ecumenism seems to have gone out of fashion. There are, I think, two main reasons for this. One is that our concern these days is rather with inter-faith issues - in particular with Islam - and that is where our energy lies. The need to dialogue with other world religions is pressing, and our intra-Christian domestic squabbles seem relatively unimportant.

The second reason is that the issues dividing Christians seem more intractable than ever. We could talk productively together about the Eucharist, or Justification, and find different emphases, different facets, that allowed us to move to some agreement on these issues. But the ordination of women to priesthood and episcopacy in most Protestant denominations is a real block - there is no halfway house, no formula possible that could make it acceptable to the Catholic (and Orthodox) Churches. Even that pales into insignificance besides moral issues, largely those of homosexuality and of same-sex marriage, which divide not just Catholics from Protestants, but Protestant communities within themselves. Hence, the Catholic Church can ask, in some perplexity and not without reason; To whom should we talk? What is your official position? In the end, these issues come down to the question of authority. Who has authority to decide between different readings of scripture and tradition? By what authority are innovations introduced? Authority is also a serious question in the dialogue with our Orthodox partners: their suspicion of the pretensions of Rome have been stoked during recent political events in the Crimea and Ukraine. It is hard talk theology against a background of suspicion.

But if, in light of this, our feeling is that we should just get on with living together as best we can, we are brought up short by the prayer of our Lord himself: 'Father, may they be one as you and I are one' (John 17:21). Ecumenism is not a matter of politeness, or of housekeeping. It is an imperative, for in as much as Christians are divided, we deface the image of Christ we present to the world and compromise his message. However, we mistake the nature of ecumenism if we think it is something we have to create ourselves, the work of human hands. Our task, the task of all Christians, is to be more attentive to the will of Christ. When we are faithful to him, we shall stand as one before him.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 21st January - 3rd Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK 1

Sunday 21	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 10.30am	Sung English Mass
Monday 22	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Vincent</i>
Tuesday 23	1.05pm	Mass
Wednesday 24	1.05 pm 12.30	Mass <i>St Francis de Sales</i> <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 25	1.05pm	Mass <i>Conversion of St Paul</i>
Friday 26	1.05pm 7.30pm	Mass <i>St Timothy and St Titus</i> Vespers for Christian Unity Week
Saturday 27	11.30am 4.30—5.30 6.00pm	Mass with KHS <i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 28	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00am 11.00 am	Sung Latin Mass Sung English Mass

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

ALTAR SERVERS,

We are in need of altar servers for the Saturday evening Vigil Mass, for Sunday 9.00am Mass, and for weekdays. Please sign up on the notice outside chapel, or speak to Fr Mark, or Daniel on dif21.

FR BRENDAN BRADSHAW

Fr Brendan was a great scholar and familiar Cambridge figure. He died just before Christmas. A memorial Mass will be celebrated for him in Queens' College chapel on Wednesday 24 January at 6.00pm.

AQUINAS LECTURE

The annual lecture at Blackfriars, given by Dr Andrew Meszaros, will take place on Monday 29 January, at 6.00pm.

SENIOR MEMBERS' PALAZZOLA TRIP

We are planning a short trip to Palazzola - the stunning residence in the Alban Hills outside Rome - from 25 to 28 June. There will be trips to the Papal Gardens at Castel Gandolfo, to Nemi and Frascati. If you are interested, and would like more information, please contact Fr Mark on ml709.

GRADSOC

On Wednesday, meeting at Fisher House at 7.30pm to head out for a pub night.

QUERO : THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGAINS

A new venture this term, beginning on Sunday 28 January at 6.15pm, is aimed at theologically minded postgraduate and undergraduate students who aren't (necessarily) doing theology degrees. There will be some reading to do, and each session will comprise prayer, a presentation and a discussion. The topics for this term are:

1. The Role of Faith in the Modern World (Jan 28)
2. Can you reason your way to God? (Feb 4)
3. Theodicy, Original Sin, and the Fall (Feb 11)
4. Heaven, Hell and the Catholic Response to Eternity (Feb 18)

Watch the notice-board for more details.

FISHER SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE

The best way of keeping up with events in Fisher House is through the Fisher Society Facebook page. Please make sure you are a member. There is also a full calendar of services and events maintained on the website.

CONSIDER YOUR CALL

A group for those thinking of religious life and priesthood. We will meet for discussion, prayer (and food) in the Great Chamber on Friday 2 February.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

We shall celebrate a special ecumenical Vespers at 7.30pm on Friday 26 January, at which an address will be given by Revd Helen Arnold, Chaplain of Fitzwilliam College. All are welcome.

ECUMENICAL AND INTER- FAITH GROUP

To begin our ecumenical/inter-faith series, on Wednesday 14 January, Revd Paul Dominiak, Dean of Jesus College, will speak on Anglicanism. Great Chamber, 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served.

FISHER SOCIETY AGM

The meeting to hear about the working of the Student body that organises religious and social events at the Chaplaincy will take place on Sunday 4 February. If you would like to stand for the committee, or one of its offices, please see Fr Mark, Damian (dw499) or Theresa (trmr2).

KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

The Knights are joining us for Mass next Saturday, which will be celebrated at the earlier time of 11.30am. This organisation supports the Christian community and specific Christian project in the Holy Land.

BENSON CLUB: MURIEL SPARK

The novel we shall be considering at the beginning of this term is Muriel Spark's scintillating first book: *The Comforters*. Thursday 25 January, 8.00pm in the Great Chamber. Wine and chocolate will be provided.

DANTE CIRCLE

The Dante Circle this term will aim to introduce the Divine Comedy to those who are new to Dante. Our guide is Prof. Robin Kirkpatrick - we could ask for no-one better to accompany us! See the notice board outside the chapel for details.

APOLOGIA - TUESDAY EVENING TALKS

This term's series begins on Tuesday 23 January with the topic 'The existence of God'. Join us for a meal at 7.00pm, talk at 8.00pm, followed by a period of prayer and the Bar.

FILM CLUB

The Film next Sunday will be Martin Scorsese's film of Shūsaku Endō's searing novel *Silence*, telling of the persecution of the Catholic Church in Japan in the 17th century. Fisher Room, 8.00pm, Sunday 21 January.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£250.89

Thank you!