

A LISTENING COMMUNITY

Last Sunday, an issue was raised which has been simmering (I think it fair to say) for some time: that of noise at Mass, particularly coming from young children. I feel that there is a discussion we have to have as a community, so (taking a deep breath) here are some of my thoughts:

Some principles:

- We welcome young families and children to Fisher House. How wonderful and life-giving it is to see these young children (and how many parishes would love to have as many in their own churches!). I also understand that it can be difficult to control a suddenly unruly child.
- Fisher House is a chaplaincy. It is not a parish as such, but has a special ministry towards students, and an important part of that ministry is preaching - which can be compromised by background noise. Not only the congregation, but the priest, can be distracted from concentrating on the sermon.

While it can be difficult to reconcile these principles, I don't think it impossible. I must confess to some reservations about frequently proposed solutions:

- The children's liturgy, when we ran it, attracted older children, and did not appreciably reduce the amount of noise in the chapel.
- My own experience of microphone systems is of vast expense, and equipment cluttering sacristy and sanctuary. My preference is to train readers, since the size and fine acoustic of our chapel should not require amplification.

Yet I don't think it adequate simply to sit, fret, and do nothing. At our next meeting, the CUCA Council (the body that runs Fisher House) will consider the issue, both in the short and long term. My input will be that:

- Short term, there may be an argument for a microphone system within the chapel, and a sound and audio relay to the Fisher Room to enable people to follow Mass from there.
- Long term, we should look at the possibility of building out the sloping roof at the back of the chapel, and creating a mezzanine room looking into the chapel, both for children and the overflow at 11.00am Mass.

Do let me know your thoughts. In the meantime, it will require generosity, patience, and common sense from all of us - qualities I am convinced are to be found abundantly at Fisher House.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 11th February - 6th Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK IV

Sunday 11	SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass	
Monday 12	1.05pm Mass	
Tuesday 13	1.05pm Mass	
Wednesday 14	8.00am Mass 1.05pm Mass 6.00pm Mass	ASH WEDNESDAY FASTING & ABSTINENCE
Thursday 15	1.05pm Mass	
Friday 16	12.30pm Stations of the Cross 1.05pm Mass 7.30pm Vespers and Reflection	
Saturday 17	1.05pm Mass 4.30—5.30 Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 18	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass	

FR AMBROSE HENLEY OSB

The preacher at Mass today is Fr Ambrose, from Ampleforth Abbey.

MORNING PRAYER

The Office of Lauds is prayed in the chapel each morning at 8.15am.

LOURDES O&C PILGRIMAGE

The Oxford and Cambridge Lourdes pilgrimage takes place 21 - 27 July. Cost £350 (bursaries available). Contact lourdesoandc@gmail.com or speak to Fr Mark

PALM BRANCHES

The Ashes we use on Ash Wednesday are traditionally made by burning last year's palm branches. Please bring yours in, and give them to Fr Mark!

SENIOR MEMBERS' READING GROUP FOR LENT

At 6.00pm on Thursdays in Lent, there will be an opportunity for senior members to meet and discuss together a spiritual text: this year Dr Luigi Goia's *Say it to God* - chosen as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lenten Book. Copies are available from Fr Mark at £7. Sign up outside the chapel.

FISHER LECTURE

The annual Fisher Lecture, in which we invite a major public figure to address issues of faith and society, will be given by Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP on 'How can we keep hoping?' Thursday 15 February at 6.00pm in the chapel, followed by refreshments.

QUERO : THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGAINS

Our theology group for postgraduate and undergraduate students who aren't (necessarily) doing theology degrees, continues on Sunday at 3.30pm in the Library with the question of Theodicy, Original Sin, and the Fall. For more details, and a reading package, contact Robert Billups on querocam@gmail.com

BENSON CLUB

The next novel to be read is our own Monsignor Benson's apocalyptic masterpiece: *Lord of the World*. It is available free online. We meet to discuss it on 15 March - so you have all term to read it!

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.

MARDI GRAS PARTY



On Shrove Tuesday, pancakes galore, together with wine and cheese. Dress code is Mardi Gras - which means at the very least a mask. You don't want to be recognised, anyway! 7.00pm Fisher Room. £5 This, of course, takes the place of our normal Apologia talk.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 8 - 9 SEPTEMBER

A major event in the life of the Church. A Eucharistic Congress will be held in Liverpool, with delegates from every parish and community in the country. We have several allocated places. If you would like to attend, see Fr Mark.

TAIZÉ PILGRIMAGE

Revd Andrew Bigg, Chaplain at Corpus Christi, is organising a pilgrimage to Taizé 3 -10 September. Travel will be via TGV, and cost will be around £400. Please contact him for more information on ab2495@cam.ac.uk

FILM CLUB

Tonight (Sunday) Gregory Peck rescues allied soldiers in wartime Rome, as Mgr O'Flaherty. *The Scarlet and The Black*. 8.00pm Fisher Room.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass, with distribution of Ashes, will take place at 8.00am, 1.05pm, 6.00pm.

Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence, when we should give up one meal, and abstain from meat.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Are celebrated every Friday during Lent at 12.30pm, just before Mass.

** On Friday 9 March, we will celebrate a special Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm, with your opportunity to write reflections, poems, songs, for each stations. A sign-up list is outside the chapel.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Nicholas Hudson will celebrate Mass on 4 March, and confer the sacrament of Confirmation. If you want to be Confirmed, please see Fr Mark.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our new Fisher Committee, and especially to Theresa, Chair and Giorgia, Vice-Chair. We thank them for their generosity, and look forward to a wonderful year!

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£304.87

Thank you!