

THE CALL TO HOLINESS

Pope Francis' newest exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* has a simple, direct message, summed up in its title 'Rejoice and Be Glad' - holiness is available to all of us, and far from being an 'add on' to our spiritual life, it makes us fully alive, fully human, fully happy. The Pope very much intends this as a practical guide, not a treatise simply to be studied by theologians.

While there are many notable examples of holiness among the great saints, each of us called to be holy in her or his own way - indeed, trying to copy the holiness of a great saint may prove impossible for us. Pope Francis is very clear that there is no one rule for all. God's life is communicated 'to some in one way and to others in another'.

But all holiness has at its origin and aim Christ; holiness is 'at its core' union with Christ and the mysteries of his life. Pope Francis warns against Gnosticism - the tendency to see faith as knowing lots of things - and Pelagianism - the effort to achieve holiness by one's own efforts. Instead, the Holy Father offers the Beatitudes as a portrait of holiness, or what he calls the 'Christian's identity card'. Yet he is clear that holiness means charity towards others; you cannot separate the call to holiness from works of mercy. Becoming like Christ, we will find ourselves living lives marked by patience, meekness, joy, boldness, care for others, and prayer. Yet Pope Francis also recognises that the Christian must engage in battle against the works of the devil - and he is clear that the devil is real, not a myth or a symbol. Only by careful discernment can we know whether something comes from the Holy Spirit or from the devil. Discernment, he notes, includes reason and prudence, but also seeks a glimpse of that unique plan that God has for each of us. Pope Francis concludes by calling on Mary's intercession to help all walk with Jesus toward holiness

Pope Francis refers to a wonderful quotation from St Thomas More, which can guide us all in the weeks ahead: *Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest. Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humour to maintain it. Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but rather finds the means to put things back in their place. Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumbling, sighs and laments, nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called 'I'. Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humour. Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke and to discover in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others.*

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 29 April - 5th Sunday of Easter

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK I

Sunday 29	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass
Monday 30	1.05pm Mass
Tuesday 1 May	1.05pm Mass
Wednesday 2	12.30pm <i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i> 1.05 pm Mass
Thursday 3	1.05pm NO MASS <i>Sts Philip and James</i>
Friday 4	1.05pm Mass <i>Martyrs of England</i> 7.30pm <i>Vespers and Reflection</i>
Saturday 5	1.05pm Mass 4.30—5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday ORDINARIATE USAGE
Sunday 6	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00 am Sung English Mass Celebrant: Mgr Keith Newton.

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

BENSON CLUB

The Benson Club meets to discuss G.K.Chesterton's nightmarish novel, 'The Man who was Thursday.' Wednesday 9 May, 7.30pm, Great Chamber.

BOOKS FOR THE HOMELESS

Many homeless people like to read donated books. Our SVP will take these out on their nightly rounds. A box is outside the chapel for suitable donations.

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

THURSDAY LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Fisher Room will be in use as a polling station on Thursday. For security reasons, there will be no access to the chapel, and no Mass or Divine Office. Access to the library via the front door of the old house.

FISHER MASS

We keep the feast of St John Fisher with Mass at Great St Mary's on Monday 7 May at 12 noon, followed by a buffet lunch.

QUAERO : THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGIANS

Our theology group continues on Sunday at 3.30pm in the Library. For more details, and a reading package, contact Robert Billups on querocam@gmail.com

FOOTBALL

Julia Wdowin is our captain as we assemble a team to play the Oxford Chaplaincy for the Fisher-More cup (which we sadly but temporarily lost to them last year). Please sign up on the notice-board, or contact Julia on jw735.

TAIZE PRAYER

On Monday 7 May, 9.00pm in the Fisher Room.

DIVINE OFFICE AT FISHER HOUSE

Morning Prayer is recited Monday to Friday at 8.00am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 7.30am.

Mid-day Prayer is recited according to Ordinariate Usage from Monday to Friday at 12 noon.

Vespers is celebrated each Friday at 6.30pm (note change of time). It included a Reflection.

Compline is celebrated by those who wish, Monday to Friday, at about 9.00pm in the chapel.

APOLOGIA

Our popular Tuesday series continues this week with Fr Mark on *Purgatory*. Come for a meal at 7.00pm, talk at 8.00pm. Followed by Compline and Bar. Voluntary donation of £1 towards the cost of the meal.

KOLB FUND

The fund provides grants for Catholic women students at the University of Cambridge, born in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, towards the cost of books or equipment, travel (particularly if related to their studies) or medical expenses. For an application form see the Fisher House website at <http://fisherhouse.org.uk/the-elizabeth-kolb-memorial-trust/>, or contact Dr Anne Cobby, 17 George Street, Cambridge CB4 1AL, email aec25@cam.ac.uk.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A one-day course will be held at Fisher House on Saturday 19 May. Please see Fr Mark if you are interested.

THE KEYS AND THE KINGDOM

Catherine Pepinster will speak after evening Mass on Ascension Day, 10 May, about her book detailing relations between the papacy and Britain in recent decades.

ORDINARIATE USAGE

Next Saturday, the 6.00pm Vigil Mass will be celebrated by Mgr Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Mass will thereby be longer than usual. Mgr Newton will also preside and preach at the usual 11.00am Mass on Sunday.

ORTHODOXY

Fr Raphael Armour, Russian Orthodox chaplain, will speak about the Orthodox Church on Thursday at 7.30pm in the Great Chamber. All are welcome.

SCRIPTURE READING

On Fridays over lunch, we continue our scripture reading, with an opportunity to read and discuss some passages. 1.30pm in the Fisher Room.

CPR CLASS

There will be an opportunity to learn Cardiopulmonary resuscitation: a two-hour class in the Fisher Room on Friday 25 May. Free, but places limited. Please sign up.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£302.48

Thank you!