

## THE MYSTERIES OF LIGHT

In October 2002, one of my Dominican sisters was leading the rosary after Mass and invited the congregation to pray the “the new mysteries”, *the mysteries of light* that the then Pope, St John Paul II, had recently proposed.

One elderly lady was perplexed. “He’s not getting rid of the old ones, is he?” she demanded. Of course he wasn’t. Over the centuries, praying the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of the rosary, reflecting on the infancy, suffering and resurrection of Jesus, has brought countless people closer to the Lord. So why the luminous mysteries? Why did the school of Mary, as St John Paul called the rosary, need this addition to its curriculum?

In the first place, pondering Christ’s baptism, his first miracle at Cana, his call to preach the gospel, his appearing in glory on the mountaintop before his Passion and his giving himself to his Church in the Eucharist fills a lengthy gap in the gospel story. In fact there is absolutely no reason why we shouldn’t take any story of Jesus teaching, feeding or healing his people, and reflect lovingly on it as the beads pass through our fingers. Or we could choose passages from the Old Testament that point to him, a series of his titles (perhaps those he gives himself in St John’s Gospel – the bread of life, the true vine and so on) or even experiences from our own lives which have spoken to us of his presence. These are all beautiful ways of praying the rosary, and the introduction of the “new” mysteries of light can encourage us to be creative here.

And we can turn the mysteries of light into intercession, linking each of them with a particular prayer intention: thinking in turn, for instance, of the newly baptized, married couples, missionaries, persecuted Christians, and priests as they prepare to celebrate Mass.

Above all, these mysteries each reveal something of who it is who is at the centre of our prayer whenever we say the rosary. This, indeed, is why they are called luminous: they shed light on who Jesus is for us. He is the one who comes to stand with us in our need for God’s healing, makes us drunk with joy, teaches us the way to his Father, assures us that sorrow will not have the last word in our lives, and comes to live within us in Holy Communion. They take nothing away from the “old” mysteries, but deepen our appreciation of them. They help us to see the rosary, in St John Paul’s words, as “a true doorway to the depths of the heart of Christ, ocean of joy and light, of suffering and of glory.”

*Sr Ann*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 21 October - 29th of the Year

### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK III

Sunday 21	29TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
		11.00am	Sung English Mass
Monday 22	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St John Paul II</i>
Tuesday 23	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 24	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 25	1.05pm	Mass	
Friday 26	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Chad and St Cedd.</i>
Saturday 27	1.05pm	Mass	
	4.30—5.30	Confessions	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 28	30TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	9.00am	Latin Mass
		11.00am	Sung English Mass



*CLOCKS GO BACK NEXT WEEKEND!  
ENJOY AN EXTRA HOUR IN BED!!*

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR CHASE PEPPER CSC

**CUCA CONSTITUTION  
EXTRAORDINARY  
GENERAL MEETING**

The Cambridge University Catholic Association, the body that manages Fisher House, is amending an important aspect of its constitution, to enable a new charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) to manage CUCA's affairs.

Full details are posted on the noticeboard. The changes must be ratified at a meeting after Mass on Sunday 25 November.

**TALK ON 'BUILDING THE  
BENEDICT OPTION'**

On Monday 22 Oct, at 7.00pm in the Fisher Room, Leah Libresco Sargeant will speak about her recent book, *Building the Benedict Option*, detailing practical solutions for Christians who want to build communities of prayer. All are welcome.

**TAIZE PRAYER**

We are delighted that the Cambridge Taize prayer group has moved permanently to Fisher House. Join them in the chapel at 8.00pm every Monday evening.

**APOLOGIA**

Our popular Tuesday meal and meeting continues on 23 October, at 7.00pm in the Fisher Room. Come for dinner, a talk, compline and the bar. This week Michael Wee, from the Anscombe Bioethics Centre in Oxford, will be speaking about *Chastity and Contraception*.

**SVP – SOUP RUN**

The Society of St Vincent de Paul meets weekly on Fridays at 6.00pm in the Fisher Room. If you would like to take part in the nightly soup runs, please contact Claire Cosgrove on cc837.

**CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES  
HOMELESSNESS PROJECT**

Those around for (part of) the Christmas Vacation invited to join the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project. Volunteer recruitment evenings: Tues 6 Nov at Little St. Mary's, 7.00pm; Fri 9 Nov at 8.00pm in the OLEM Parish centre & Wed 14 Nov at St. Paul's Hills Road 7.00pm.

**BENSON CLUB**

The book for this term is *Fr Elijah: an apocalypse*, by Michael O'Brien. We will meet to discuss it on Monday 26 November.

**DR ERIC GRIFFITHS RIP**

Dr Griffiths' funeral will take place at Fisher House at 11.00am on Friday 9 November.

**MINISTRIES AT FISHER  
HOUSE**

Thanks so much to all those who signed up for ministries at Fisher House - we could still use more readers at the 6.00pm Vigil and 9.00am Mass.

There will be a short training session for new Ministers of Holy Communion next Saturday, 27 October, at 11.00am

**THEATRE OUTING**

Sign up outside the chapel if you'd like to join us for Richard III at the ADC Theatre, on Wednesday 24 October. The play begins at 7.45pm, and costs £10.

**CONSIDER YOUR CALL**

A group for those wishing to consider religious life and priesthood, meeting with Sr Ann and Fr Chase. Monday 29 October at 6.00pm.

**WEEKLY SCRIPTURE  
MEDITATION**

Over a simple lunch after Mass on Friday, come to the Fisher Room to discuss scripture passages.

**BLACK SWAN BAR**

Our chaplaincy bar is open on Friday evenings from 8.00pm for members of Fisher House.

**DANTE CIRCLE**

Our Dante Circle returns, and Prof. Kirkpatrick has enlisted fresh guides to conduct us through the nether realms. We shall be looking at Cantos I -V of Inferno. Wednesday 24 October at 5.30pm (NB) in the Great Chamber. Wine provided.

**TALK ON BAHA'I FAITH**

There will be a presentation in the Great Chamber on Thursday 25 October, by a practitioner of the Baha'i Faith. Based in Iran and the Middle East, its teaching have often been controversial. Come to find out more about it at: 7.30pm. All welcome.

**GRAD & POSTGRAD SOC**

On Thursday, Evensong and Dinner at Trinity College, 6.00pm. Contact Marc on mb2187

**QUAERO: THEOLOGY  
FOR NON-THEOLOGAINS**

On Sunday at 3.30pm in the library, discussion of classic texts in an engaging and accessible way - over mead! Contact Reed on rjm228

**DAILY LUNCH**

Available Mon-Fri in the Fisher Room after Mass, £1.50.

**COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

£335.95

*Thank you!*