

## UNTIL THY HIGH BEHEST IS DONE

In the narrow streets of Naples are set little shrines displaying figures painted with (it must be said) more faith than artistry emerging from a sea of flame. A similar image, more expertly rendered in mosaic, adorns the Holy Souls chapel in Westminster Cathedral, where souls stand waist-deep in a flaming sea, weeping for their sins while awaiting rescue. These, together with countless other images, sermons, visions and prayers, are attempts to depict the plight of the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for whom we pray especially this month.

Pope Benedict, in his teaching about Purgatory, had several caveats about this popular image of the fate of the souls of the faithful departed. He reminded us that the Church has never taught that Purgatory is a place - rather it is a process, a purification after death to enable us to behold the unmediated glory of God. The souls in Purgatory are on the move - Dante portrays them as such - as opposed to the fixed, eternal punishment of Hell. A purification there is indeed in Purgatory; and the notion of purification has induced many, including the scholastic fathers, to describe a real fire. Pope Benedict reminds us that Purgatory is not a 'second hell', nor is it halfway between heaven and hell; too much emphasis on fire as a punishment perhaps has led to this error. It was St Bonaventure who offered a different narrative, where the 'fire' is the longing of the soul for Christ, who has already begun to burn away the dross of sin. St Catherine of Genoa, a favourite of Pope Benedict, speaks of 'fire' in Purgatory as both delight and pain, as the soul 'burns' with longing to be before God in heaven. The suffering of Purgatory is of fulfilment delayed, of the intense anticipation of glory, and awareness of one's own unreadiness.

Cardinal Newman has great insight here: in his *Dream of Gerontius*, the soul of Gerontius is carried before the throne of God. Borne by the prayers of the angels, encouraged by the prayers of the faithful on earth, Gerontius comes at last to the vision of God. It is depicted with nerve-tingling brilliance in Elgar's setting, where the music rises louder to an enormous - silence. At the moment of encounter there is a stunning quiet before a crash, out of which a voice cries 'Take me away!' Gerontius cannot bear to be loved so much, and pleads to be given time to prepare for the eternal joy of heaven, where he will be assisted by the prayers of the Church. Our prayers this month will help our loved ones to speed their way on their own journey to eternal bliss.

*Fr Mark*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28 October - 30th of the Year

### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK IV

Sunday 28	29TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass
Monday 29	1.05pm Mass <i>Martyrs of Douai</i>
Tuesday 30	1.05pm Mass
Wednesday 31	1.05pm Mass
Thursday 1 November	ALL SAINTS: HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION Masses at 8.00am, 1.05pm, 6.00pm
Friday 2	1.05pm Mass ALL SOULS
Saturday 3	1.05pm Mass <i>St Martin de Porres</i> 4.30—5.30 Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 4	31ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00am Latin Mass 11.00am Sung English Mass

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.

### **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.

### **MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Ministers both new and old will be commissioned at all Masses next weekend. Please keep them in your prayers.

### **DR ERIC GRIFFITHS RIP**

Older members will remember Dr Griffiths, a Fellow of Trinity, and irrepressible literary critic. He was a great supporter of Fisher House. Dr Griffiths died at the end of September, and his funeral will take place here on Friday 9 November.

### **ALL SAINTS**

Thursday 1 November is a holyday of obligation, when we should attend Mass. Masses are at 8.00am, 1.05pm and 6.00pm.

### **NOVEMBER DEAD LIST**

A book for you to record the names of your dear and loved ones will be available throughout November. Those recorded will be remembered at Masses this month.

### **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 Sr Ann will speak on the Eucharist.

### **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**

Stephen Barwise, from OLEM, who helps organise this project, will speak briefly at Masses next weekend about how we can be involved over the Christmas period.

### **GILBEY REQUIEM**

The annual requiem for Mgr Gilbey will take place on Monday 19 November at 5.30pm.

### **SAINTS AND SINNERS PARTY**

On Friday 2 November at 8.00pm, come dressed as our favourite saint - or sinner. There will be a balloon debate during the evening, as well as fun and games. A prize will be awarded for the best costume!



### **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 in the Great Chamber.

### **POST - DOCS**

Next week, we'd like our post-docs to stay behind after 11.00am Mass briefly, to discuss ways in which we can be a good community for you.

### **WEEKLY SCRIPTURE MEDITATION**

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

### **FISHER SOCIETY FACE- BOOK GROUP**

Make sure you join the Fisher Society group on Facebook, to get up-to-the minute news about events.

### **GRAD & POSTGRAD SOC**

On Wednesday, Richard van der Beek leads us through the wine groves of Germany. 7.30pm. Contact Marc on mb2187

### **QUAERO: THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGIANs**

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

### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

A one-day course, from 9.00am to 3.00pm, will take place at Fisher House on Saturday 17 November. Please contact Fr Mark if you are interested in attending.

### **DAILY LUNCH**

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

### **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.

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

£401.09

*Thank you!*

*It costs £4,000 per week  
to run Fisher House.*