

ONE ECUMENISM, MANY FORMS

Term begins, this year, in the middle of the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, an annual reminder that ‘to be Catholic is to be ecumenical’, and that the quest for unity among Christians is not a footnote to our vocation. We are bound to strive to overcome the divisions within Christianity, for it is the Lord’s own prayer that ‘we may be one’ as he and the Father are one (John 17:21).

For many decades, ecumenism has meant one thing: theologians sitting around a table discussing doctrine. Teams of Catholic experts have dialogued about Justification with Lutherans, Sanctification with Methodists, Primacy with Orthodox, and Eucharist, Ministry, and a host of other issues with Anglicans. These are important occasions, introducing us to each other, helping us to unlearn caricatures, to appreciate how much we have in common, and to pin-point our differences.

But the limitations of this method have also become clear. Theological discussion can be remote from lived experience, and can appear dry and abstract. How does ecumenism affect us in our actual communities, parishes, and families? Alongside theological dialogue, there must be a *Spiritual Ecumenism*, which is a unity in prayer, in honouring Scripture, and in charity. When we are all more like Christ, then we shall be more like each other.

A *Practical Ecumenism* enables Christians to act together, to bring Christ’s presence to our world. Here in Cambridge, members of different churches operate the Food Bank, and winter shelter. This is ecumenism lived in practice.

Pope Francis has spoken of an *Ecumenism of Blood*, whereby Christians share fellowship with those who have witnessed to Christ in, and with, their lives. ‘They are Christians (he says) and for that they are persecuted. This, brothers and sisters, is the ecumenism of blood.’

Finally, we all are experiencing an *Ecumenism of Necessity*. As our society pursues fashions inimical to the Christian message, as it moves away from its religious roots, Christians of different traditions have to stand together. Materialism, atheism, indifference or hostility to Christian values, mean that we have to witness together. For disunity compromises our witness: only together can we speak clearly to the tone-deaf society around us.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 20 January - 2nd Week of the Year

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK I

Sunday 20	2 ND WEEK OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 21	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Agnes</i>
Tuesday 22	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Vincent</i>
Wednesday 23	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 24	1.05pm	NO MASS	<i>St Francis de Sales</i>
Friday 25	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Conversion of St Paul</i>
	7.30pm	<i>Vespers for Christian Unity Week</i>	
Saturday 26	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Sts Timothy and Titus</i>
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 27	3 RD WEEK OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Latin Mass	
	11.00am	Sung English Mass	

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

O&C LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

The Oxford & Cambridge Lourdes Pilgrimage will be from 20 to 28 July. Travel and accommodation costs are estimated at £350 with 50% bursaries available to students in financial need. More information from Simon Johnson at lourdesoandc@gmail.com

TAIZE PRAYER

Join the Taize group in the chapel at 8.00pm every Monday evening.

CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

On Tuesday, Juliana Taimoorazy, founder of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council, will share her experiences of her travels in Assyria in early 2018 working among Syriac and Chaldean Christians. 7.30pm Boys Smiths Room, St John's College.

GILBEY SCHOLARSHIPS

Available for singers and organists who wish to sing regularly at Fisher House. Please see the notice board for details.

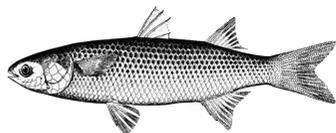
FILM CLUB

Films will be shown at 8.30pm on Sunday evenings in the Fisher Room during term. This Sunday *For Greater Glory* - an epic film about the Cristeros rebellion in Mexico.

APOLOGIA

Our popular Tuesday meal and meeting continues on Tuesday, at 7.00pm in the Fisher Room. Come for dinner, a talk, compline and the bar. This week Fr Mark will speak on *Ecumenism: A Busted Flush?*

THE HADDOCKS



Fisher House's discussion group on medical ethics, aimed at doctors or anyone interested in these questions, meets next Monday, 21 January, at 4.00pm in the Fisher Room. Dr Cajetan Skowronski will speak on abortion.

THE DOLPHINS

Continuing our fishy theme, Fisher House's triumphant football team ('*The Dolphins*') meets every Sunday afternoon at 2.45pm to practice. Contact Julia Wdowin on jw735.



PRO-LIFE GROUP

The new Fisher House Pro-Life Group will meet fortnightly during term. The first meeting will be on Monday 21 January at 7.30pm in the Fisher Room for an over-view of the purpose of the group. Contact Conor McKee on cmm85.

VESPERS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

On Friday at 7.30pm, we celebrate a special Vespers for the cause of Christian Unity. The homilist will be Revd Sarah Atkins, Chaplain of Magdalene College. You are encouraged to attend this important witness to our desire to fulfil the Lord's will *That they may be one*.

BENSON CLUB

Fisher House's own book club meets on Monday at 7.30pm in the Great Chamber to discuss Rumer Godden's novel of convent life: *In this House of Brede*. Cheese and Wine supplied in non-monastic abundance.

CHAPEL CLOSURE

The chapel will be closed next Thursday, to install an audio-visual system which will relay the Mass to the Fisher Room. We also will activate the loop system for the hard of hearing.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

It's the time of year to look ahead to warm and lazy days of summer. We are planning another visit for Senior Members to Palazzola, the stunning villa outside Rome, from 5 August for 7 nights. Not to be missed! Please see the notice board for details.

CROSSING THE GREAT DIVINE

At the 11.00am Mass next Sunday, the preacher will be Fr Matthew Power SJ, Catholic Chaplain to Oxford University.

QUAERO: THEOLOGY FOR NON-THEOLOGAINS

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

SCRIPTURE & SOUP

Each Friday, an opportunity to study scripture over lunch in the Fisher Room, from 1.30pm.

INTERFAITH GROUP

On Thursday, 24 January, Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller will speak to us about gender in Judaism. 7.30pm in the Great Chamber.

CONTACTLESS GIVING

This term we shall be trialing a new form of giving to the collection. As well as the traditional plate, a terminal for contactless giving will go around, which will enable you to donate £4. We would appreciate your comments!

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£307.63

Thank you!

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