

HONOURING THE EAST

To many of us, raised in the northern fringes of Western Europe, or perhaps further afield, the world of Eastern Christianity remains an exotic mystery. Edward Gibbon is largely to blame: his *Decline and Fall of the Rome Empire* fixed firmly in western minds the notion of the decadence and derivative nature of the eastern world. The effect was to expunge the presence and influence of Constantinople from Latin affairs: as an undergraduate, I took a paper in Byzantine history - in the entire University Library, there was just half a shelf of books on the subject (thankfully things are vastly different these days!).

Accordingly, St Cyril and St Methodius (whose feast we keep on Thursday) are shadowy figures, like the icons from the world they evangelised: long beards and stoles thrown over shoulders in glittering half-light. It took a Pope who was himself from eastern Europe to introduce them to the wider church, and declare them co-patrons of Europe alongside our thoroughly western St Benedict.

They were brothers, one a priest and the other an abbot, sent by the Emperor and Patriarch of Constantinople in 863AD to evangelise the Slavic people (whose ruler had just expelled missionaries from the Latin west). They successfully translated the bible into Slavonic and celebrated the liturgy in this language, devising in the process a new alphabet (still called the 'Cyrillic'). However, the brothers were soon caught up in battles of ecclesiastical jurisdiction with German missionaries, who demanded the use of a Latin liturgy. A succession of Popes wavered in their commitment to the use of a Slavonic liturgy, but in general supported Cyril and Methodius - perhaps seeing in them a useful balance to the power of Constantinople. Cyril died in Rome in 869, and is buried in the basilica of S. Clemente (whose relics he had brought with him to Rome). Methodius returned alone to the east, with Papal blessing: a blessing he very much needed in his continuing dispute with German missionaries. Although supported by the Pope in his lifetime, after his death Rome forbade the use of the Slavonic liturgy. Methodius' successors sought and received support from the Bulgarian kingdom, from where their liturgy spread into Russia and throughout the Slavic world.

Loyal yet inventive; obedient yet creative. Perhaps this is what Our Lord meant when he sent out his disciples unencumbered by money, spare clothes, provisions. These two great patrons of Europe demonstrate a quality essential to evangelising: imagination.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 10 February - 5th Week of the Year

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK IV

Sunday 10	5TH WEEK OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00am	Sung English Mass	
	Celebrant: The Papal Nuncio , Archbishop Edward Adams		
Monday 11	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>
Tuesday 12	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 13	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 14	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Sts Cyril & Methodius</i>
Friday 15	1.05pm	Mass	
	7.30pm	<i>Vespers and Meditation</i>	
Saturday 16	1.05pm	Mass	
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 17	6TH WEEK OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Latin Mass	
	11.00am	Sung English Mass	

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

POST-DOCS

Pizza following 11.00am Mass today. Meet in the Fisher Room.

On Wednesdays we meet at 7.00pm in the Fisher House dining room for scripture discussion.

We are also keen to hear from **young families**. To join the mailing list, please contact Koryna on kb449

FILM CLUB

Films will be shown at 8.30pm on Sunday evenings in the Fisher Room during term. This Sunday *Fr Brown* - G.K. Chesterton's famous sleuth is played by Sir Alec Guinness.

CAROLINE DIVINES & THE CHURCH OF ROME

Fr Mark will be speaking the relations between 17th century Anglican theologians and Rome, on Wednesday at 4.00pm in the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Grange Road.

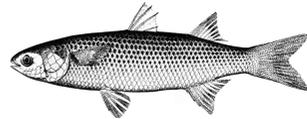
O&C LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

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

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 Dr Alastair Lockhart will speak on *Catholicism and Space Exploration*

THE HADDOCKS



A discussion group on medical ethics, aimed at medics or anyone interested in moral issues. Next meeting Monday 18 Feb to discuss Euthanasia. Contact Prakash on pt403.

PRO-LIFE GROUP

The new Fisher House Pro-Life Group meets fortnightly during term. Contact Conor McKee on cmm85.

GRADSOC

Graduates meet this week on Thursday (NB) for Evensong in Trinity. Meet at the Porters' Lodge at 6.00pm.

CONFIRMATION

If you wish to be confirmed on Sunday 3 March, please contact Fr Mark (ml709).

FR MARK

will be preaching at Evensong at Clare College next Sunday, at 6.00pm.

FISHER SOCIETY AGM

Next Sunday, following 11.00am Mass, the AGM of the Fisher Society will be held. There will be reports from different groups at the chaplaincy and the election of a new committee, and a new chair—their names are posted outside the chapel. Please support the work of the committee by attending this important event.

THE DOLPHINS

Fisher House's football team were all over the Baptists last week - the fact that we were beaten 5-3 is of minor relevance. Practice every Sunday afternoon on Jesus Green. Contact Julia Wdowin on jw735



SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

We are planning another visit for Senior Members to villa Palazzola, from 5 August for 7 nights. See the notice board for details.

CONTACTLESS PAYMENT

It is now possible to pay £4 to the Fisher House collection by contactless payment: the unit is available outside the chapel after Mass.

PAPAL NUNCIO TO MASS

The 11.00am Mass on Sunday will be celebrated by Archbishop Edwards Adam, the Papal Nuncio to Great Britain.

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.

DAILY LUNCH

Lunch after Mass in the Fisher Room each day, just £1.50 - payment may now be made by card.

AUDIO-VISUAL RELAY

We are aiming now to install this on 23 February, to enable Mass to be followed from the Fisher Room. At the same time, a Loop System for the hard of hearing will be activated.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

£545.20

Contactless: £44

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