

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There is a brief but puzzling reading from the Prophet Jeremiah each Friday at Compline: *Lord, you are in our midst, and we are called by your name; do not desert us, O Lord our God.* It is reassuring, of course, to know that the Lord is in our midst, and understandable that we ask him not to desert us, but: “*we are called by your name?*” What can it possibly mean to be called by the name of the Lord?

Names are important. Parents sometimes agonise over what to call their children: fearful of exposing their offspring to ridicule in the playground if they get it wrong; balancing the desire to please grandparents or hand on a family tradition with their own tastes and inclinations. And the names we are given have a kind of power over us: an affectionate nickname bestows a comforting sense of belonging; a contemptuous one hurts like a slap in the face. Names have meanings but they also have associations: perhaps we all have a mental picture of what a Gladys or an Ermintrude will be like. Even spelling can be significant: as I and most of my Anglophone namesakes know: Anne-with-an-e is a very different person from Ann-without.

We expect names to capture and reveal something of a person's essence. Nowhere is this more poignantly illustrated than in the life of a saint we commemorated last week, whom we know as St Josephine Bakhita, but who spent years of her life effectively nameless. One of the many slave owners who brutalised and humiliated this young Sudanese woman called her Bakhita (with diabolical irony; it means “fortunate one”) because, presumably, he had to call her something, and she was so traumatised and dehumanised by her experiences that she had forgotten the name her parents had given her: almost literally, she no longer knew who she was. Little wonder then that after her rescue and subsequent baptism she would frequently be found ecstatically kissing the font where, in her naming as Josephine, she received her wounded and broken humanity back, transfigured: where she became, as she put it, a child of God.

At our baptism, like St Josephine Bakhita, we receive a Christian name in two senses. We are welcomed into the Lord's family with a name that we have chosen, or that has been chosen for us. But we are also given the ultimate Christian name, the name of Christ himself, as we become members of his Body the Church. Henceforth, our joys and our sorrows will be his; henceforth, we will live with his own life, henceforth our deepest identity will be his. We are called by the name of the Lord, then, because not only is he in our midst, but, more startlingly and more consolingly, we are *in* him. And so we need not fear that he will ever desert us, because he cannot desert his own self.

*Sr Ann*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 17 February - 6th Week of the Year

### CALENDAR - TERM WEEK V

Sunday 17	6TH WEEK OF THE YEAR	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00am	Sung English Mass
Monday 18	1.05pm	Mass
Tuesday 19	1.05pm	Mass
Wednesday 20	1.05pm	Mass
	7.00pm	Mass at Queens' College
Thursday 21	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Peter Damian, Doctor</i>
Friday 22	1.05pm	Mass <i>Chair of St Peter</i>
	7.30pm	<i>Vespers and Meditation</i>
Saturday 23	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Polycarp, Bishop, martyr</i>
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 24	7TH 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

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 Kcotryna on kb449

## FILM CLUB

Films will be shown at 8.30pm on Sunday evenings in the Fisher Room during term. This there will be a selection of films to choose from!

## COULD YOU MAKE THE STONES SPEAK?

ARC UK is looking for English speaking tour guides aged 18-30 to work as guides in cathedrals and churches around Europe. You'll have time off to explore the country you're staying in! For more information about this opportunity visit [www.encounterarc.org.uk](http://www.encounterarc.org.uk) or see the noticeboard.

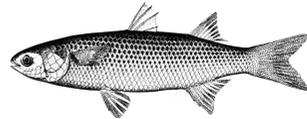
## O&C LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

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](mailto: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 Professor Michael Kelly will speak on *Catholicism and Climate Change*.

## THE HADDOCS



A discussion group on medical ethics, aimed at medics or anyone interested in moral issues. Next meeting 4.00pm Monday 18 Feb to discuss *Euthanasia*. Contact Prakash on pt403.

## PRO-LIFE GROUP

The Fisher House Pro-Life Group meets 7.30pm on 18 February; Emily Milne from the Alliance of Pro-Life Students will speak on *'Pro-Life Apologetics'*. Contact Conor McKee on cmm85.

## GRADSOC

Graduates meet this week on Thursday (NB) for a Salsa/Latin Dancing class, Wolfson College Seminar Room at 7.45pm.

## CONFIRMATION

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

## FR MARK

will preach at Magdalene next Sunday evening.

## FISHER SOCIETY AGM

Following today's 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. Please support the work of the committee by attending this important event.

## THE DOLPHINS

Fisher House's football team practices every Sunday afternoon on Jesus Green. It's a great break from study! Contact Julia Wdowin on jw735.



## MASS AT QUEENS' COLLEGE

Mass will be celebrated at 6.15pm on Wednesday 20, in the chapel of Queens' College.

## CONTACTLESS PAYMENT

We need volunteers to collect after Mass - it's easy, and a great way to meet people! Sign up on the noticeboard.

## LEGACY NEWS

We are very grateful to the (anonymous) alumna who has given £100,000 to Fisher House.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Friday 15 March, we will celebrate Fisher House *Stations of the Cross*. Please sign up to write a poem, reflection, or piece of music, for the stations.

## 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 27 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

£433.17

Contactless: £38

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