

NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISETH

None of the marks of the onset of old age is an increased interest in gardening. Somewhat to my surprise (and amusement), I now find it the height of an exciting excursion to visit a gardening centre (Scotsdales in Great Shelford is my favourite, but at a pinch the Coton Orchard will do) and gaze in fascination at the perennials, bushes, succulents, climbers and fruit trees with the same thrill with which I used to hike across the Yorkshire Moors or ruins of Asia Minor. And of course, all that excitement requires a sit down and a nice cup of tea and a scone in the cafeteria. Don't mock. It will come to you all.

This year, I noticed something new about myself in February and March. I found myself looking forward to the appearance of buds and leaves on the plants with as much excitement as I had always anticipated Christmas as a child. I was genuinely thrilled to see the first signs of returning life, to recognise the vestiges of colour, the way that barren twigs sprout buds and new shoots. It *really* is exciting.

And that made me realise something that, I suppose, is obvious. That it is no accident that Easter occurs at this time of year, that we celebrate our new life in Christ just as nature gives us a lesson in the return of life. More than that: the dead-looking twigs, the bare branches, things that an undiscerning eye might consider throwing away as barren and useless, actually contain within them the seeds of that new life. The bud that forms has within it the potential to grow into a flower, a leaf, a glorious display.

Christ's death on the cross is a real death, but it contains the seeds of what is to come: in obedience to the Father, love allows itself to be crucified, but that same obedience and unquenchable love brings death back to life. As John's Gospel has it: *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* Cambridge is at its most beautiful in its spring array. Enjoy it, and read in it the gospel of our salvation, delightfully set before us by nature itself.

Fr Mark, Sr Ann, Fr Philip wish you a blessed and successful term ahead.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

CALENDAR - EASTER TERM WEEK I

Sunday 28	2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
		11.00 am	Sung English Mass
Monday 29	1.05pm	Mass	St Catherine of Siena
Tuesday 30	1.05pm	Mass	ST GEORGE (transferred)
Wednesday 1 May	1.05pm 7.00pm	Mass	St Joseph the worker Mass at Corpus Christi College
Thursday 2	1.05pm	Mass	St Athanasius
Friday 3	1.05pm 7.30pm	Mass	Sts Philip and James NIGHT FEVER
Saturday 4	1.05pm 4.30—5.30 6.00pm	Mass	THE ENGLISH MARYTRS <i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 5	3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am	Latin Mass
		11.00 am	Sung English Mass

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

FR CHASE

will be preaching at Evensong at St John's College next Sunday, at 6.30pm.

HADDOCS

Dr Stephen Brennan will speak will speak to the Catholic Medics society at 4.00pm on Monday 29 April in the Fisher Room. The subject will be DNRs (*Do Not Resuscitate* orders).

KING ARTHUR

Professor Andrew Breeze will speak on 'King Arthur: A Christian Hero of the Sixth Century' on Tuesday 29 at 2.00pm in the Fisher Room.

AUDIO-VISUAL RELAY & BACKGROUND NOISE

Sunday Mass is now relayed to the Fisher Room on a large screen, with excellent sound. If your child is making a loud noise, please do consider moving to the Fisher Room for a while: you will be able to follow Mass there. The Loop system is now also operational.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are in need of more ministers, particularly at the 9.00am Sunday Mass - and most urgently at 6.00pm Vigil. Please see Fr Mark if you can help.

APOLOGIA

There are just two meetings this term. On Tuesday, 30 April, Professor John Morrill will speak on '*Catholic piety in penal times*'. Meal at 7.00pm, Talk at 8.00pm.

THE FISHER MASS

We celebrate the Feast of St John Fisher on Monday 6 May with Mass at Great St Mary at 12.00 noon, followed by a buffet lunch at Fisher House.

BAR STAFF

We are looking for new bar staff: if interested, please see Fr Mark.

THE BENSON CLUB

meets on 9 May at 7.30pm in the Great Chamber to discuss two novels: Graham Greene's tortured classic: *The Heart of the Matter*, and Frederic Rolfe's eccentric masterpiece: *Hadrian VII*.

CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECT

Thank-you to the Volunteers & Supporters of the Winter night Shelter that ran until the end of March, offering food and shelter to 17 persons each night.

EXTRAORDINARY FORM

Mass will be offered in the EF this term on alternate Wednesdays at 7.00pm, starting on 8 May.

TERMCARDS

College Reps: please take your bundles of cards from outside the chapel.

VIGIL FOR SRI LANKA

We have been asked to take part in a vigil of prayer at 5.00pm in Great St Mary. Please do consider coming to pray for those who died in the Easter Sunday atrocity, the wounded, and all their loved ones - and for peace in our troubled world.

INTERNATIONAL SNACKS!

Following 11.00am Mass this Sunday, we invite you to join us for a selection of international snacks in the Fisher Room.

MASS AT CORPUS

Mass will be celebrated in Corpus Christi College on Wednesday at 7.00pm. There are five College Masses this term: please see the notice board for details.

NIGHT FEVER

Night Fever will be held next Friday, 3 May at 7.30pm. Please sign up on the list if you would like to take part.

GRADSOC

Following a barn-storming year lead by Marc, the GradSoc is under new management. An exciting programme has been unveiled - please see the notice board for details of the term's events..

THE FISHER LECTURE

This prestigious annual lecture features this year Professor Paul Murray, of Durham University, who will speak in the chapel on Thursday at 6.00pm on the topic:

Catholicism Transfigured: The Current Catholic Moment and what it requires of us.



THE FISHER DINNER

The highlight of the chaplaincy social calendar: a black-tie dinner at Queens' College on 11 June, preceded by drinks at Fisher House. Tickets are £38.50 (drinking) or £32.50 (non-drinking). Sign up either outside the chapel, or on the Fisher Society Facebook page (not both). We have some financial aid available to allow everyone to attend - please see Fr Mark.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

£264.90

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