

## A MODERN SAINT

**B**orn into a military family, his father Governor-General of Canada, and his mother a distinguished member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Jean Vanier was destined for a military career with the promise of advancement in the diplomatic service. His early life followed this path, with schooling in Canada, France and England preparing him for life as a naval officer. Jean served in World War II in the Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy, but in 1950 resigned his commission, feeling a call to religious life. He worked as an academic, and taught philosophy at University in Toronto, but still felt a deeper call in his heart to do something modelled on the life of Christ. In 1964, Jean visited a mental institution just outside Paris, and was shocked at the way the inmates were simply left to walk around in circles, and moved by their pleas that he visit them again. He received permission for two of the patients to leave the institution, and bought a house in northern France where he invited them to live with him. This refuge, or 'Ark', became the first L'Arche community, where those with disabilities live alongside those who care for them. Inspired by Jean Vanier's philosophy that those with disabilities are not burdens, but teachers, for those who live with them, L'Arche communities have been established throughout the world (there is one here in Cambridge). While continuing to live in his original community, Jean travelled throughout the world, giving retreats and lectures, and encouraging the removal of barriers between those with disabilities and others. In 1971, he founded the *Faith and Light* movement, an international support group for those with developmental disabilities, their families and friends.

Jean Vanier said that living with the disabled helped him to appreciate two truths: first, that people with learning difficulties have a great deal to contribute; second, by living in a community with people - with and without learning disabilities - we open ourselves up to be challenged and to grow. Pope Francis said of him, that Jean Vanier could read 'the mystery of those who are discarded by the world'. Jean devoted his life to what has been described as the 'upside-down economics' of Christianity: that the first shall be last. He embodied a principle first outlined in the New Testament by the Apostle Paul, who said, "When I am weak, then am I strong." For Vanier placed those who are normally excluded or placed on the margins at the centre.

Learning of his death this week, Pope Francis said, 'Simply put, I want to thank him, and thank God for having given us this man with such a great witness to faith and love.'

Fr Mark



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 12 May - 4th Sunday of Easter

### CALENDAR - EASTER TERM WEEK III

Sunday 12	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass
Monday 13	1.05pm	Mass <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>
	6.15pm	Mass at Trinity College
Tuesday 14	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Matthias, Apostle</i>
	6.30pm	Mass at Magdalene College
Wednesday 15	1.05pm	Mass
Thursday 16	1.05pm	Mass
Friday 17	1.05pm	Mass
	7.30pm	<i>Vespers and Meditation</i>
Saturday 18	1.05pm	Mass
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 19	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.00am	Latin Mass
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass

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

## HADDOCS

The next meeting of our medical ethics group will be on Tuesday 14 May, at 4.00pm, when Dr Rupert Beale will speak.

## TAIZE PRAYER

At 8.00pm every Monday in term time, in the chapel All welcome.

## CONTACTLESS PAYMENT

Remember that there is an opportunity to make your contribution to Fisher House after Mass

## 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.

## DANTE CIRCLE

Meets next on Monday 13 May, at 5.30pm, to consider *Paradiso* 29. Texts provided - no knowledge of Italian necessary.

## BAR STAFF

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

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

During the Fisher Party, on 11 June, we will hold a photographic review of the year. If you have any 'remarkable' or evocative photos, please forward them to Fr Mark.

## EUROVISION SONG CONTEST



If you like music, or (even better if you don't), the Eurovision party is here again. Join the annual festival of Europop/Eurorocket. 7.00pm next Saturday, in Fr Mark's Room. At least we can guarantee that the refreshments will be tasteful ...

## MORNING PRAYER

From Monday to Friday, Morning Prayer (Lauds) will be prayed in the chapel at 8.00am.

## MASS AT TRINITY COLLEGE

on Monday, 13 May, at 6.15pm.

## MASS AT MAGDALENE COLLEGE

on Tuesday, 14 May, at 6.30pm (note time) followed by drinks reception.

## OTHER COLLEGE MASSES THIS TERM

20 May: Christ's 6.00pm

21 May: Homerton 6.00pm

## IFTAR

On Thursday 16 May at 8.30pm, Fisher House will co-host *Iftar* - the evening meal with which Muslims end their Ramadan fast at sunset. Please let Krzysztof Zamarski know on kpz20, or sign up on the Fisher House facebook page event.

## SVP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul meets for prayers on Friday at 6.00pm on Friday in the Fisher Room.

\*\* We are looking for volunteers for the nightly soup run, especially during exam time. Please contact Dorinda on dsc37.

## GRADSOC

Grads will join PostDocs for Brunch at Queens' College, following 11.00am Mass this Sunday. On Wednesday, there will be a movie night in the Fisher Room at 7.30pm

## *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

£392.15

Contactless £24

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