

MARY'S MONTH

May is Mary's month remarks Gerard Manley Hopkins, in his poem, *The May Magnificat*. But, he wonders, why? After all, there's usually a reason for liturgical feasts falling when they do, and the Church's recalling of events in the life of

Mary is no exception: the Presentation of her Firstborn in the Temple comes forty days after his birth, as required by the Law of Moses: we celebrate Christmas 9 months to the day from the Annunciation, when the Lord takes flesh in the Virgin's womb. But: *The Lady month, May/Why fasten that upon her/With a feasting in her honour?*

Fr Hopkins suggests two answers to his rhetorical question. They're closely related, and both worth reflecting on.

In the first place, he says, and being Hopkins he says it in a way that leaves you breathless, spring is the time of *growth in everything: in flesh and fleece, fur and feather/grass and greenworld all together*. We can see in the fecundity and freshness of nature in spring an image of Mary, pregnant with the new life that will bring salvation to a wintry world grown old. Maytime growth reminds us of the growth of the Saviour enfolded in Mary's flesh, and impels us to give thanks, as Mary herself gives thanks in her own Magnificat when she sings praise to the Lord present within her.

But what is particularly important for Hopkins is not just that things grow, that they get bigger, but that, in the process, they grow into themselves, become ever more clearly the things they are made to be, *magnifying each their kind*, as he puts it. Mary, conceived without sin is, of course, already what human beings are made to be. We can look to her as an example of what we hope to become. But also – because this is what human beings are meant to be – we can look to her as the channel through which the love of God flows to us unimpeded to enable us to become what we are meant to be. And in this, something tremendously hopeful is revealed.

Hopkins depicts Mary's maternal love as extending beyond humanity to all of creation, because in all of creation we can see, as she did, a reflection of the beauty of the One whom Mary bore in her flesh and gave to the world. And it's no grimly dutiful affair. She does not love us because she has to, because maternal love is blind, because we are the kind of hopeless cases that only a mother could love. Her love for us, and for the world, partakes in what Hopkins here calls "spring's universal bliss", a seeing the world, and us within it, as lovely, as lovely as birdsong in an orchard heavy with fruit blossom. If the one whose vision is unclouded by original sin sees us thus, perhaps reflecting on that might begin to correct our faulty vision of ourselves, and of each other. And, of course, if we do come, gradually by God's grace to see with that unclouded vision, it will be for us, as it was for Mary, a source of a joy that no one can take from us.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 5 May - 3rd Sunday of Easter

CALENDAR - EASTER TERM WEEK II

Sunday 5	3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.00am Sung Latin Mass 11.00 am Sung English Mass
Monday 6	12.00pm THE FISHER MASS Great St Mary's Church
Tuesday 7	1.05pm Mass
Wednesday 8	1.05pm Mass 7.00pm Low Mass (Extraordinary Form)
Thursday 9	1.05pm Mass
Friday 10	1.05pm Mass 7.30pm <i>Vespers and Meditation</i>
Saturday 11	1.05pm Mass 4.30—5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 12	4TH 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.

CONACTLESS 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.

SIR ANTHONY KENNY

The famed philosopher will speak at the Von Hugel Institute (St Edmund's College) on Friday at 4.00pm on *The Pros and Cons of Catholicism*.

APOLOGIA

The second of our two meetings takes place on Tuesday, 7 May, when Fr Mark will speak on *'The Sacrament of Penance: Lifting the Curtain on Confession.'* Meal at 7.00pm, Talk at 8.00pm.

DANTE CIRCLE

Meets next on Monday 13 May, at 5.30pm, to consider *Paradiso 29*. Texts provided.

BAR STAFF

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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

There will be a one-day course for those preparing for marriage on Saturday 18 May, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please contact Fr Mark if interested.

TERMCARDS

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

COLLEGE MASSES THIS TERM

13 May: Trinity 6.15pm
14 May: Magdalene 6.00pm
20 May: Christ's 6.00pm
21 May: Homerton 6.00pm

CONCERT AT MARGARET BEAUFORT INSTITUTE

Friday at 7.00pm, a delightful programme of music for voice, organ and recorder.

THE FISHER MASS

Our annual celebration of the Feast of St John Fisher will take place on Monday at Great St Mary's (a Church he would have known well). The preacher will be Revd Rod Strange, Professor of Theology at St Mary's University. Mass is followed by a buffet lunch back at Fisher House. Please wear academic dress (gowns) for this occasion. Doctors wear scarlet.

EXTRAORDINARY FORM MASS

Mass will be celebrated next Wednesday in the Extraordinary (Tridentine) Form, and every other Wednesday in term time, at 7.00pm.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Saturday 11 May, starting at 9.30am in London. Full details on www.marchforlife.co.uk or see poster for details.

GRADSOC

The Grads are meeting for Evensong at St John's College (they are celebrating St John the Evangelist) on Monday, meeting at St John's Porters' Lodge at 6.00pm.

Grads also will join PostDocs for Brunch at Queens' College, following 11.00am Mass next Sunday.

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*.

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

£417.10

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