

## FIRMLY I BELIEVE, AND TRULY ...

It's surprising how many comic cameo appearances the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity makes in 20<sup>th</sup> century fiction. In Grahame Greene's *Monsignor Quixote*, for instance, the hero attempts to explain the Church's teaching by recourse to three bottles of wine, speaking of the extra spark of *joie de vivre* imparted by the third bottle, representing the Holy Spirit. But then, having imbibed a good deal of the contents of his visual aids, he becomes contrite. This third bottle was only half the size of the other two. Has he unwittingly taught heresy, suggesting that the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is not the equal of Father and Son? Our reactions to this are likely to be ambiguous. Are we supposed to feel complacently superior to the poor befuddled little country priest who can't quite remember the *minutiae* of the doctrine they taught him at Seminary but who knows it was all terribly important somehow? Or is it all right to feel that there is something beautifully heroic in his half-cut attempts at precision, subverted as they are not merely by sun and wine but by the intrinsic limitations of language?

I think the answer is that we're meant to be unsure what to do. This mirrors an anxiety many of us may secretly harbour in relation to this Sunday's feast. We know, intellectually, that the Doctrine of the Trinity is central to the Christian creed, so why it is not more central to our own lives of faith?

Perhaps our difficulty stems from shame at our inability to comprehend what it can possibly *mean* to say that God is three and God is one. But in fact this should be a cause for excitement, not embarrassment. In a place like Cambridge, where clarity and profundity of thought is rightly prized, we are particularly reluctant to make statements that we cannot exhaustively justify. Generally, that's good, not least with regard to our faith: we should certainly never leave our brains outside the Church door. But it is no abdication of our intellectual responsibility to confess that we do not know, completely, what it means to talk of God as Trinity. On the contrary, it's deep, and profoundly intelligent humility. To understand this fully, after all, we would need to be as great as God. But this much we do know. We are made in the image of this mysterious, always greater God. And this has tremendous implications for how we think about and treat each other and ourselves. We too are always, mysteriously, greater than we might dream, or dread. Far from making us anxious, the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity should serve to allay our deepest fears.

*Sr Ann OP*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 16 June - TRINITY SUNDAY

### CALENDAR - EASTER TERM WEEK VIII

Sunday 16	TRINITY SUNDAY		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass : LEAVERS' MASS	
Monday 17	1.05pm	Mass	
Tuesday 18	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 19	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 20	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Alban, protomartyr</i>
Friday 21	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Aloysius Gonzaga</i>
Saturday 22	1.05pm	Mass	
		ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE	
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Trinity Sunday	
Sunday 23	CORPUS CHRISTI		
	9.00am	Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	

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

## BOOK RETURN



Please ensure that you return any books that you have borrowed from the library. It is very important that we know what books are missing over the summer!

## SUMMER WISHES

This is the final weekly newsletter for this academic year. Sr Ann, Fr Chase and Fr Mark wish all of you a blessed and restful summer. In particular, our prayers and best wishes accompany those who will be graduating and leaving after their time at Cambridge. We send you on your way knowing that you will accomplish great things!

## SENIOR MEMBERS

We are keen to make sure that our senior members are fully part of our community, even if they cannot get to Mass. In the next few weeks, we'll be suggesting ways in which we can work together to care for all our members, especially those unable to get to Mass.

## COLLEGE REPS



If you are a College Rep who will be leaving Cambridge at the end of the year, please nominate a new Rep (ask them first!) and let Fr Mark or Tad (ta431) know.

## GRADSOC WINE TASTING



The GradSoc never permits the mere end of the academic year to diminish its activities. The next event is a wine-tasting, hosted by Richard van der Beek, on Thursday 27 June at 7.00pm. Cost is £5: to allow for catering, please let Sebastian know on swo25 by Wednesday.

## LEAVERS' BBQ

The Leavers' Barbeque takes place following the 11.00am Mass this Sunday. Cost is £2 - free for leavers. Do come and bid *au revoir* (not farewell) to friends at the Chaplaincy.

## BENSON CLUB

Sadly, we have to cancel the next meeting, owing to the press of events. A new list of books for the next academic year will be out soon.

## VACATION MASS TIMES

Next weekend, the Feast of Corpus Christi, Masses are at the usual term-times of 6.00pm Vigil, 9.00am Latin and 11.00 English. From Sunday 30 June, there will only be a 10.30am Mass (there will be no vigil Mass on Saturday). Weekday Masses continue unchanged.

## FISHER HOUSE MERCHANDISE



We have a few Fisher House ties, at £20, and cufflinks at £10. They will be on sale during the Leavers' Barbeque.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

£417.30

Contactless: £44

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

## THE FISHER HOUSE GARDEN PARTY



On Tuesday 18 June, in the lovely gardens of the Margaret Beaufort Institute, join us for our annual homage to Pimms, cucumber sandwiches and Croquet, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. The Margaret Beaufort Institute in on Grange Road, just around the corner from Newnham College.

## ENTRANCE LOBBY



There is a large amount of clothing items left in the entrance lobby to the chaplaincy. Please do remove it if it is yours. The remainder will be taken for charity.

## THE CHAPLAINCY

Fisher House remains open during the summer vacation - although there are some days when weekday Mass will not be available. In the evenings, the doors will be bolted at 9.00pm.