

## How (not) to count your blessings ...

It is getting to that stage in the year when we are probably all feeling somewhat weary, maybe even despondent, as exams and submission dates loom, and yet the delights of end of term and May Week are obscured on the other side of mountains of revision and deadlines. At such times, it can be a useful spiritual exercise consciously to give thanks for all those things in our lives that help keep us going when the going gets tough.

In the first place, of course, it is good to renew our gratitude for the people who sustain us, for our friends who see us at our worst and still accept us as we are, echoing the unchanging love of God for each one of us. Reflecting on the love of friends is a powerful weapon in the fight against the low self-esteem which has nothing to do with true humility and which is in itself a cause of so much sorrow and anxiety for many of us.

It's also good to remember and give thanks for all those quiet, and sometimes easily overlooked, moments when we are assured of the unconquerable presence within and around us of the God who is love almighty: the unfussy word or gesture of comfort, perhaps from an unexpected source, when we are anxious or in pain; a glimpse of divine beauty behind the human beauty of music, or art, or a well-constructed argument.

But it's important to understand what all this does and doesn't mean. Thanksgiving isn't a magic wand. It's not that counting our blessings will simply make all the stresses and strains of life melt away. Still less is this about beating ourselves up if thanksgiving doesn't come easily to us, telling ourselves sternly to pull ourselves together and remember all those worse off than we are. It doesn't mean, as perhaps we sometimes fear, that we are ungrateful, or deficient in either trust in God or concern for others if we find it hard to celebrate when things are rough. It just means things are rough. But, even at moments like these – especially at moments like these – there can be real consolation in quietly naming to ourselves all those things that help to nourish us, allowing our gratitude for sometimes apparently small mercies to surprise, delight and refresh us.

Sr Ann



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 19 May - 5th Sunday of Easter

### CALENDAR - EASTER TERM WEEK IV

Sunday 19	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass
Monday 20	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Bernadine of Siena</i>
	6.00pm	Mass at Christ's College
Tuesday 21	1.05pm	Mass
	6.00pm	Mass at Homerton College
Wednesday 22	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Rita of Cascia</i>
Thursday 23	1.05pm	NO MASS (Election Day)
Friday 24	1.05pm	Mass
	7.30pm	<i>Vespers and Meditation</i>
Saturday 25	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Bede the Venerable</i>
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 26	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.00am	Latin Mass
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass

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

## 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 operational.



## MARY WARD LECTURE

Mary Ward Lecture, sponsored by the Margaret Beaufort Institute, takes place on 24 May, 4.00pm - 5.30pm. Prof. John Cottingham will speak on How to Believe. Runcie Room, Faculty of Divinity, West Road, Cambridge. Entrance is free, but to book a space please call 01223 741 039 or e-mail Ela on ew263.

## EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

The Fisher Room is to be used for voting on Thursday - and security concerns mean that there will be no Mass or access to the library via the chaplaincy. To use the library, please ring the doorbell of the old house (or better, text someone already there!).

## PRAYER FOR EXAMS

A card is available outside the chapel, with the prayer of St Thomas Aquinas before study, and prayers before exams.

## GRADSOC



As ever, the GradSoc approaches exam season in a creative way. There will be an outing to the Cambridge Beer Festival on Wednesday. Meet in the Fisher Room at 7.00pm

## 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.

## MORNING PRAYER

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

## MASS AT CHRIST'S COLLEGE

on Monday, 20 May, at 6.00pm, followed by a reception. Here we celebrate Mass in one of the few places where we know St John Fisher himself celebrated. All are welcome.

## MASS AT HOMERTON COLLEGE

on Tuesday, 21 May, at 6.00pm followed by drinks and Formal Hall. All are welcome to the Mass.

## MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM

will be celebrated on Wednesday in the chapel at 7.00pm.

## IGNITE TEAM

The Diocese of East Anglia is looking for people aged 18 – 30 take a year (or more) to work in schools and parishes throughout the diocese, sharing the Gospel Message and exploring Catholic teaching with young people. They receive board and lodging (currently based in Walsingham), all living expenses and a personal allowance of £50 a week. There is more info at [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth)

## CONGRATULATIONS

To the Fisher Committee, but especially to Kzrysztof Zamarzki and Josh Synder, for organising an amazing *Iftar* last week, when 150 members of the Islamic Society came to break their fast at Fisher House. It was an unprecedented and joyous celebration. Photos on the Fisher Society Facebook Page.



## *The Fisher Dinner*

The highlight of the chaplaincy social calendar: a formal dinner at Queens' College on 11 June. 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

**£384.02**

**Contactless £32**

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