

If Prayers Got Amazon Reviews

A couple of weeks ago, Fr. Mark set out a “Prayer for Exams” for students to pick up in the lobby of Fisher House, and people must have been feeling the need for a little divine intervention because they seem to have disappeared pretty quickly. Now, no offense to Fr. Mark and to the operation that we run here at Fisher House, but as far as prayers for help in specific needs go, I give the one that the lot of you picked up 2 out of 5 stars. You can trust my professional opinion in this matter. It’s part of what I’m working on right now for my PhD.

It’s not that the prayer doesn’t “work.” It’s that I’m worried the prayer might work too well. Or it might work on levels that we don’t know immediately to expect and to appreciate. I myself was praying a version of the students’ prayer to St. Thomas Aquinas, for example, in the lead up to the submission for my first-year registration exercise, and the more I prayed it, the more difficult the work seemed to get! Almost as if the more I prayed, the more I had to trust that God had put me where he wanted me, that God was giving me what I needed, that God was leading me down the right bibliographical channels, even when it felt exactly (and crucifyingly) the opposite. When we pray for clarity of thought and ease of expression, what I usually mean by that is, “God, put me in a position to impress myself with the strength of my mental life.” But sometimes God hears and answers our prayers by trusting us not to be impressed with ourselves, to carry a little extra weight, to take longer strides in the darkness, because God is making our work to be for God’s glory (not our own). And God is training us to sustain that glory in our work and motivation.

Thomas Aquinas gets 2 out of 5 stars because he doesn’t just get you good grades. He mentors you in wisdom. If you want a prayer, though, that not only trains you for glory but can also temper the strain, I recommend the one to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. She is one of Pope Francis’s favourite patronesses, and I can vouch that she has gotten me through a number of mental and spiritual binds along the way. If you’ve never heard of her, take some time to look her up this week. She’s adept at loosening tangled thoughts and gnarled situations, and she’s already crowned with all the stars I might think to give her.

Fr. Chase, csc



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 26 May - 6th Sunday of Easter

CALENDAR - EASTER TERM WEEK V

Sunday 26	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 27	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>
Tuesday 28	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 29	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 30	ASCENSION DAY	<i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	
	Masses at 8.00am, 1.05pm, 6.00pm		
Friday 31	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Visitation of BVM</i>
	7.30pm	<i>Vespers and Meditation</i>	
Saturday 1	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Justin, Martyr</i>
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 2	7TH 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.



“BEYOND HERE BE DRAGONS”

Professor Robert Miller, The Catholic University of America will deliver at lecture at the Margaret Beaufort Institute on Tuesday at 4.30pm, investigating the role and presence of the dragon in the bible and salvation literature.

ASCENSION

Thursday is the feast of the Ascension and a Holyday of Obligation, when we should attend Mass. Masses are at 8.00am, 1.05pm, 6.00pm.

MONKS AT MAGDALENE

After a gap of some 500 years. Benedictine monks, from Douai Abbey, return to Magdalene College next Sunday to sing vespers. 6.00pm

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 know.

PRAYER FOR EXAMS

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

*** but cf back cover!*

GRADSOC

On Wednesday, the GradSoc will attend Formal Hall at Jesus College.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

£301.79

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

(apologies for non-availability of contactless last week)

MORNING PRAYER

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

OXFORD vs CAMBRIDGE FOOTBALL MATCH



Next Sunday 2 June, at 2.00pm the Dolphins (Fisher House's magnificent football team) will successfully defend the Fisher/More Cup against Oxford Catholic Chaplaincy. Training this weekend, if enough people are available, at 4.30pm . Contact Julia Wdowin if you'd like to play (jw735).

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

The Fisher Dinner

The highlight of the chaplaincy social calendar: you have only until Tuesday to book a ticket via the Fisher Society Facebook Page. Tickets are £38.50 (drinking) or £32.50 (non-drinking).



THE FISHER PARTY



Following the Fisher Dinner, you are invited to come back to Fisher House for our all-night party, featuring games, events, entertainments, and flying sharks. Even if you didn't come to the dinner, you are welcome! This year, for the first time, we feature a theme:

Les Misérables

Come, and man the barricades!