

A DOMINICAN AND A CARMELITE WALK INTO A BAR ...

Not the opening line of a terrible joke, but a thought experiment for the opening of the academic year. Those of you who are new to Cambridge have been bombarded already with advice about what to expect from your time here and how to make the most of it. Some of this was in official induction sessions in college or faculty, but more useful information is often communicated in more informal settings. So, I wondered: if some of our brothers and sisters the Saints were to wander into the Black Swan Bar of a Friday evening, what words of wisdom might they share with us as Michaelmas Term gets under way in earnest? Here are two voices from our tradition whose words might be of help.

First, the Dominican, St Thomas Aquinas. In the course of a dizzyingly productive scholarly life, Thomas wrote a lengthy response to a young brother in his community who plucked up the courage to ask for tips on how best to study. Thomas's letter is full of robust common sense, but perhaps most intriguing is the assertion that in the life of study one should be pay heed, above all, not to *who* says anything, but, rather to *what* is said, looking to the intrinsic authority of a text, rather than to its authorship. This is a guideline Thomas followed in his own writing, regularly citing pagan, Jewish and Islamic sources alongside the Fathers of the Church, not in a spirit of naïve credulity, but in the conviction that all that is true has its origin in the goodness of the one God who is himself truth. Such generous hospitality to the truth, wherever it is found, is still a worthwhile aspiration – and challenge – for all of us who study.

Our second voice: St Therese of Lisieux, the Carmelite nun whose death at 24 left her Superior scratching her head about what to write in her obituary: a sweet enough little thing, she conceded, but what did she ever *do*? Therese, like St Thomas Aquinas, is a saint specially commended precisely for her teaching, but the simplicity of that teaching is deceptive. It is often said that Therese taught that the way to heaven is to do little things perfectly. She did not, thank God. She is much more interested in doing things, great and small, with love. *In the evening of my life* Therese said, *I shall appear before God with empty hands*. She anticipated being empty handed at the end, not because she believed herself to be without gifts, but because those gifts were destined to pass through her hands, in love and joyful service to the Church and the world. Not a bad aspiration for all of us as we begin another year at Fisher House.

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 20 October - 29th Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR - MICHAELMAS TERM WEEK II

Sunday 20	29TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 21	1.05pm	Mass	.
Tuesday 22	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St John Paul II, Pope</i>
Wednesday 23	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St John of Capistrano</i>
	7.00pm	Mass in Extraordinary Form	
Thursday 24	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Anthony Mary Claret</i>
Friday 25	1.05pm	Mass	
	7.30pm	Vespers and Meditation	
Saturday 26	11.30am	Mass	<i>St Chad & St Cedd</i>
	4.30 - 5.30	Confessions	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 27	30TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	

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

EXTRAORDINARY FORM MASS

Mass will be celebrated in the Extraordinary Form on Wednesday at 7.00pm.

TAIZE PRAYER

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

AUDIO-VISUAL RELAY & BACKGROUND NOISE

Sunday Mass is 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.

BLACK SWAN BAR

A reminder that the famed Bar of Fisher House ("I can't believe these incredible prices!") is open each Friday, following Vespers, at 8.15pm.

DANTE CIRCLE

The group meets on Monday 28 October at 5.30pm - an introduction to reading the Divine Comedy: no knowledge of Italian necessary. Please see notice-board for details.



LUNCH IS SERVED

Cooked lunch following 11.00am Mass will be served for Freshers by the Fisher Committee, in the Fisher Room and library.

DOLPHINS

Fisher House Football team kicks off on 27th October at 3.00pm with a friendly match against the Polish Parish. No experience needed! See poster for details.



BENSON CLUB

Our book club meets on 30th October. Evelyn Waugh's *Helena* - a good quick read to start us off!

POST-DOCS AND YOUNG FAMILIES

We have a thriving group for those who are researching, or who have young families. Find fellowship, prayer and mentoring opportunities. See the poster for details.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

There will be a one-day course for those preparing for marriage on Saturday 2 November. Please contact Fr Mark (ml709) if you would like to be included.



DAYLIGHT SAVING

Remember—clocks go back one hour next weekend.

APOLOGIA

Our popular series recommences on Tuesday in the Fisher Room. Come at 7.00pm for a meal, a talk at 8.00pm, followed by Compline and the Black Swan Bar. This week, Fr Mark will speak on *Being a Catholic in Cambridge*.

GRADSOC DRINKS

Come to the Great Chamber (via the Library) on Wednesday for drinks with the Chaplains. 8.00pm

EAMON DUFFY ON NEWMAN

The first of our major series on St John Henry Newman takes place on Thursday, in the chapel, when Professor Duffy will deliver 'An Introduction to John Henry Newman', at 7.30pm. All are most welcome.

FR HANS ZOLLNER SJ

The Vatican's leading expert on sexual abuse within the Church will speak at the Von Hugel Institute (in the grounds of St Edmund's College) on Friday at 4.00pm.

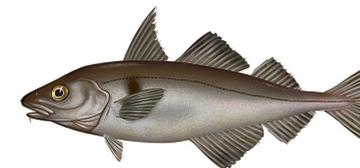
SAINTS AND SINNERS

Don your best fancy dress, and come to the Saints and Sinners Party on 1 November - a balloon debate will be held to decide who your favourite hero/villain is!

COLLEGE REPS

There will be drinks for all College Reps in the Great Chamber, on Monday 21 October, at 7.30pm.

HADDOCS



Our group for Catholic medics and those interested in ethical issues commences on Monday, at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room, with a discussion on 'autonomy'. All are welcome.

VESPERS & MEDITATION

Join us on Fridays at 7.30pm for a prayerful recitation of Vespers and a meditation. If you can help with music, please see Sr Ann.

SE CHAPLAINCIES PILGRIMAGE

Next Saturday, students from Catholic chaplaincies across the South-East of England will be in Cambridge for a day of pilgrimage. Mass will be at the earlier time of 11.30am.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

£427.99

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