

DESCENT INTO HELL

For once, I'm not talking about Dante here. I am talking about a Dante scholar, though. Charles Williams, as I'm sure many of you are well aware, was one of the Inklings among such eminent literary names as J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. Dantists know about him because of a seminal work that he published in 1943 on the figure of Beatrice in Dante's works, but I usually think of him around this time of year (it's Halloween season back home in the States) on account of a novel that he published several years before his work on Beatrice called *Descent into Hell*.

There's a haunting scene in *Descent* that has stuck in my memory. The main character, Pamela, is walking home alone late one night when she notices a figure approaching her in the dark. It's coming from the opposite end of the street. At first, the figure merely gives her a sense of unease, but as it matches its pace to hers and steadily draws nearer and nearer, Pamela's unease turns into a definite feeling of dread. She's all but choking back screams by the time that she and the figure draw up next to each other, and she realizes that the figure is she herself, her own doppelgänger under the form of the terrible good that her life would take at its truest and most alive! The apparition of herself to herself causes her absolute panic, and she escapes from it into the home of her mundane comforts and illusions.

One of the ways the theological tradition thinks about God is as a mystery both terrible and fascinating (*mysterium tremendum et fascinans*), but our lives too have something of the mysterious, the terrifying, and the fascinating about them – mysterious because we don't know our own depths, terrifying because our depths stir with untold and alien goods, fascinating because the true glimpses we get of our depths speak to us of the person we always hoped we could be. The psalmist can't stop praising the Lord that (s)he is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14)! In this week leading up to All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day, perhaps one daring prayer we can make is to meet our own saint-selves down some autumn alley of Cambridge and to have the courage to at least nod at them in hope.

Fr. Chase, csc



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27 October - 30th Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR - MICHAELMAS TERM WEEK III

Sunday 27	30TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 28	1.05pm	Mass	.St Simon and St Jude
Tuesday 29	1.05pm	Mass	Martyrs of Douai
Wednesday 30	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 31	1.05pm	Mass	
Friday 1 November	ALL SAINTS (Holyday of Obligation)		
	Masses at 8.00pm, 1.05pm, 6.00pm		
	7.30pm	Vespers and Meditation	
Saturday 2	COMMEMORATION OF FAITHFUL DEPARTED		
	1.05pm	Mass	
	4.30 - 5.30	Confessions	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 3	31ST 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

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During November, a Book of Remembrance will be available outside the chapel, to record the names of your loved ones who will be remembered at Mass.

TAIZE PRAYER

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

FISHER FAMILIES

For older members of Fisher House, either senior members of the University, or those who live and work in Cambridge - we have set up Fisher Friends as a Whatsapp contact group, for chat, mutual help, and social activity. Please sign up outside the chapel if you are interested.

FOOTBALL MATCH

The Fisher House Dolphins will be playing against Cambridge Polish Parish on Sunday afternoon, 27 October, at 3.00pm at Trinity Hall playing fields, Wychfield. There will also be a cake sale for Aid to the Church in Need. Contact Julia on jw735.

FR CHASE

will be preaching at Evensong at Magdalene next Sunday, at 6.15pm.



LUNCH IS SERVED

Each weekday, lunch is available in the Fisher Room after Mass, priced £1.50.

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.

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.

CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES HOMELESSNESS PROJECT

Stephen Barwise from CCHP will speak after Masses next Sunday, asking for volunteers to assist on Fridays from December to March at OLEM (the Catholic parish church), sheltering homeless people every night. There are a range of activities - full details on the poster in the porch.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

£424.25

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

Contactless available after Mass

APOLOGIA

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, we continue our Newman Series with Thomas Graff on *Newman's Apologia*.



SAINTS AND SINNERS

The annual party takes place on Friday 1 November in the Fisher Room at 8.00pm. Come

dressed as your favourite saint (or sinner.) There will be entertainments, including a balloon debate when you can vote to throw famous sinners (or saints) out of a hot-air balloon! All welcome.



TOP TEN CATHOLIC THINGS

Make sure you pick up the leaflet outside chapel, listing the top ten of everything Catholic you have to do, see and read during your time here at Cambridge.

GRADSOC FORMAL

The Graduate Society is taking bookings for Formal Hall at Christ's College on November 13. Payment must be received by November 6. Contact Sebastian on sw025, or see the FB page.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Friday 1 November is a holyday of obligation, when we should attend Mass. Masses will be at 8.00am, 1.05pm and 6.00pm.

MINISTRIES

We need volunteers to sign up as readers, servers and Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass, and to help clean altar linen. We are in great need of new members - please do consider contributing, and sign the forms outside the chapel.

PRO-LIFE GROUP

The group will meet on Monday at 7.30pm, when Ryan Haeker will speak on *'The Philosophy of Personhood'*.

DANTE CIRCLE

The circle convenes on Monday at 5.30pm in the Great Chamber, where we will look at Inferno - I,II and Paradiso XXXIII. Texts are provided, and no knowledge of Italian necessary.

BENSON CLUB

Our book club convenes on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Great Chamber, when we will discuss Evelyn Waugh's *Helena*, over cheese and wine. All very civilized.

HOLY ROSARY

is prayed after 1.05pm Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.