

Decantabat Cæcilia Dōmino Deo

We celebrate this week one of the best-known martyrs of the early Church, St Cecilia, particularly honoured as the patron saint of music and musicians. As with so many early saints, truth is hard to separate from fiction. The fact that her name appears in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) shows that she was venerated by the 5th century, and at around the same time the *Acta Sanctae Caeciliae* describes her life and martyrdom.

According to the *Acta*, Cecilia lived in the early 3rd century, and was betrothed to an unfortunate young man named Valerian. Following the marriage ceremony, Cecilia informed Valerian that she was vowed to perpetual virginity, and that he would be punished by an angel if he failed to respect her choice. Cecilia established her house as a church, and it was there she was arrested and condemned - her captors tried to suffocate her in the bathroom. When this failed, an executioner was sent to behead her, but his bungled job meant that Cecilia lived on for three days. In 1595, Cecilia's tomb was opened, and her body found to be intact: an artist was called to make a lightening sculpture of her remains, and the statue remains under the altar in her basilica in Rome. The marks of the axe are visible on her neck, and her hands outstretched - three fingers on one hand attesting to her faith in the Trinity, one on the other to the Unity of God (a good copy is in the Brompton Oratory in London).

The *Acta* mention that 'while instruments played around her, Cecilia prayed'. But a 15th century antiphon used in her Office mangled the text so that it read 'Cecilia prayed with musical instruments' - and thus began her association with music. The famed composer Palestrina set up a music Academy in Rome in her honour, and countless paintings show her singing and playing the organ. Henry Purcell and Benjamin Britten wrote in her honour, and music festivals throughout the world abound in her name.

Of all God's gifts, music must be the closest to the experience of heaven. Samuel Johnson called it *the only sensual pleasure without vice*. Listening to, and indeed making, music, we participate in that heavenly music with which God is constantly praised in heaven. That reminds us how blessed we are at Fisher House with our wonderful choirs and instrumentalists - do say a special prayer for them this week.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 17 November - 33rd Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR - MICHAELMAS TERM WEEK VI

Sunday 17	33RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 18	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Basilica of SS Peter and Paul</i>
Tuesday 19	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 20	1.05pm	Mass	
	7.00pm	Mass (EF)	
Thursday 21	12.30 - 1.00pm	Adoration	<i>Presentation of BVM</i>
	1.05pm	Mass	
Friday 22	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Cecilia, patron of music</i>
	7.30pm	Vespers and Meditation	
Saturday 23	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Clement I</i>
	4.30 - 5.30	Confessions	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 24	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE		
	9.00am	Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	

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

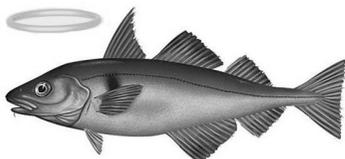
MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

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

CAKE AND BOOK SALE

Following 11.00am Mass, there will be a sale of cakes in the Fisher Room, with proceeds going towards the Homeless Project in Cambridge. There will also be a sale of remaindered books from the library.

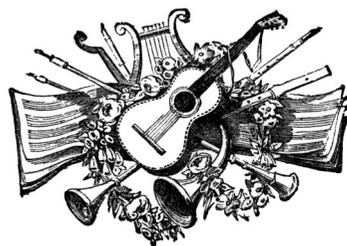
HADDOCS



The group meets every second Monday to discuss medical ethics, aimed at (but not exclusively for) Catholic medics. The Haddocs will meet this Monday at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room.

FISHER BITES

A new website contains talks, sermons and music from Fisher House. Find it via the Fisher House website, or on www.chaplain89.wixsite.com/mysite.



GILBEY SCHOLARSHIPS

Fisher House offers scholarship for singers and organists. Gilbey Choral Scholars commit to Mass and rehearsal each week in term. The scholarship is £100. Gilbey Organ Scholars play at 9.00am Mass. The scholarship is worth £300. To apply, or for more information, contact Chris Hamilton (ch792) or Carlos Rodriquez (cr611).

LIBRARY

We now have an electronic catalogue, and books can be scanned out - but you need to fill in a simple form first, available in the library.

VESPERS AND TALK AT ELY CATHEDRAL

On Monday 18 November Professor Duffy will lecture at Ely Cathedral, on the 480th anniversary of its dissolution. The talk will be at 7.00pm, preceded by Latin Vespers at 5.30pm. Tickets £5 - remember, Ely is only 15 minutes away by train!

OPEN OFFICE

Each Friday, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm, come for tea and cakes in Sr Ann's office.

CUCA AGM AND ELECTIONS

The CUCA Annual General Meeting will be held following the 11.00am Mass next Sunday. This is an opportunity to learn about the way that Fisher House is run, and to hear from the senior members who support the chaplaincy. Elections to positions on the CUCA Council will take place. Please do come and support the work of CUCA, which has sustained the Catholic presence in Cambridge for over a century.

SVP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) operates the nightly soup runs, when teams bring food and conversation to the homeless in Cambridge. It is one of the key works of our community - and we always need more names on the rota. If you'd like to sign up, please contact Tara on tc538. The SVP meets every Friday at 6.00pm in the Fisher Room for prayer and discussion. All are welcome.

CONTACTLESS GIVING

You can donate £4 after 11.00am Mass via contactless giving. The machine will be available outside the chapel.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

£296.70

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

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, Dr Cahir O'Kane will address *What does Genetics tell us about being human?*

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

We will commence adoration on Thursdays from 12.30pm to 1.00pm (just before Mass) in term time.

HELP TO GET TO MASS

A student living in Wychfield, near Fitzwilliam College, needs help getting to Mass each Sunday. It is hoped we can establish a rota - and a taxi would be paid for if needed. Please contact Fr Mark on ml709.

GRADSOC ICE SKATING



Next Thursday, the ever-adventurous GradSoc goes ice-skating. 7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

We will sing to raise money for the SVP on Friday 6 December from 3.00pm to 6.00pm.