

THE SOULS TO THEE SO DEAR

There is a tendency, regrettable but increasingly widespread, to describe funerals as ‘a celebration of the life’ of the departed. Celebrating a life is undoubtedly part of the reason we are there, as is the comforting of those who mourn, but the true reason that we, as Catholics, are present at a funeral is to pray for the dead. It goes to the core of our belief that our relationship with the deceased continues for, as the Funeral Rite rather beautifully puts it, “the bonds of love that knit us together in life do not unravel with death”.

The doctrine of Purgatory has come in for a hard time from other Christian traditions, with the condemnation of Article XXII of the Church of England offering scant relief in the beauty of its language from the vehemence of its denunciation: *The Romish doctrine concerning Purgatory ... is a fond thing vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God.* Yet our notion of Purgatory is simply based upon the reality of sin, and our reluctance to accept with a whole heart the holiness bestowed on us by Christ. We hang back, like reluctant children, clinging to what we know. Faced with the immense glory and beauty of God, we blink, we cast our eyes down.

This is captured by Cardinal Newman, and sublimely realized in Elgar’s Oratorio, when the soul of Gerontius finally goes before God. As the music rises to a climax, Elgar has a moment’s silence, the moment when Gerontius gazes upon God, before the great crash that represents their meeting, from which it is Gerontius who cries out “*Take me away!*” He cannot yet bear the raw love that is God, he needs to be purified of what still clings to him of his earthly desires and selfishness before he can unite himself fully with God. What of that purification? Traditionally we think of fire and pain, but a kinder interpretation is offered by St Catherine of Genoa, who sees Purgatory as the application of God’s love to the soul, burning away the effects of selfishness, and filling the soul with a delightful anticipation of heaven. Much as a child, on the night before Christmas, aches to be at the presents, but must rest to be prepared for the festive joy ahead. There is pain, but it is the pain of a joy not yet achieved, rather than a punishment in itself. Our prayers aid these souls in their ability to cast off their old selfish desires— it is our act of love to hasten them on their way to heaven.

Fr Mark



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 3 November - 31st Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR - MICHAELMAS TERM WEEK IV

Sunday 3	31ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 4	1.05pm	Mass	St Charles Borromeo
Tuesday 5	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 6	1.05pm	Mass	
	7.00pm	Mass in Extraordinary Form	
Thursday 7	1.05pm	Mass	St Willibrord
Friday 8	1.05pm	Mass	
	7.30pm	Vespers and Meditation	
Saturday 9	1.05pm	Mass	Dedication of Lateran Basilica
	4.30 - 5.30	Confessions	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 10	32ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY		
	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 contact Professor Soskice on jcs16, or see Fr Mark.

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.

WEEKLY GIVING

As Professor Soskice said last week, we ask for a contribution from students of about £4 (the price of a pint of beer!). If you are able to plan your giving, we can claim Gift Aid of 25% at no cost to you - forms outside the chapel.



LUNCH IS SERVED

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

SABBATH SERVICE AND MEAL

The Interfaith Friday Night at the Jewish Society is 8 November starting at 6:30pm with a Sabbath service (optional) followed by a big dinner with a guest speaker at 7:30pm. Please sign up via the Facebook event page - www.facebook.com/events/448474715874210/ or contact Kzrzysztof Zamarski on kpz20.

GILBEY REQUIEM

The annual Requiem Mass for Monsignor Gilbey, chaplain 1932-1965, will be held on Monday 11 November at 6.00pm.

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

£566.99

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

Contactless available after Mass

CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES HOMELESSNESS PROJECT

Stephen Barwise from CCHP will speak after Masses this 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.

CUCA AGM AND ELECTIONS

The CUCA Annual General Meeting will be held at 12:00 on 24 November 2019. Elections for positions on CUCA Council will take place at the AGM. The following positions are open: President (Prof Janet Soskice standing); Treasurer (Dr Damian Crowther standing); Secretary; Librarian (Alex Browne standing); and four Ordinary Members (Kate Allen, Claude Warnick, Florian Urmetzer, and Kristin Williams standing).

If you wish to stand for a position, please contact Dr Mark Retter at least 7 days before the meeting and arrange for your nomination to be proposed and seconded: cuca_secretary@fisherhouse.org.uk.
Dr Mark Retter
Secretary, CUCA

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Next week, for the first time, we shall bless and honour our list of the War dead, outside the chapel.

MASS AT CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

Mass will be celebrated on Monday at 6.00pm in the chapel at Corpus Christi College.

HADDOCS

Our group discussing medial ethics, primarily (but not solely) for those studying medicine, meets on Monday at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room.

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, Sr Ann will speak on *Julian of Norwich*.

GRADSOC

The GradSoc is getting November off to a serious start by hanging out at the Jesus College Bar on Thursday evening, from 7.30pm.

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.

BENSON CLUB

The next book for us to read is Brian Moore's *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*. We will discuss it on 5 December.