

# Getting Back to the Toolshed

What with all the seasonally incongruous attention to the theme of light that we've been getting in the readings and in the feasts of these past few weeks (not least of all in this Sunday's feast of Candlemas), I am reminded of a meditation that C.S. Lewis once penned about the interplay of light and darkness called "Meditation in a Toolshed".

He describes himself standing in the middle of a pitch-black toolshed and observing a sunbeam seeping in through a crack in its top doorframe. He notes how it's one thing to look at the sunbeam from the perspective of a third-party observer, being able (unusually) to see the light itself and the flecks of dust that it illuminates but not much else besides. It's an entirely other thing to step into the light and actually to be able to see the outside world by it.

One of his main points is that light is implicating. It's not meant to be seen but to be seen by, and the nature of the light determines what sorts of things (or what fullness of things) might be seen within its emanation.

For students, fellows, and friends of a university like Cambridge, there are many lights that we are already implicated in – lights that we see by and lights in which we are seen (or seek to be seen). It's good for us to have those "dark sheds" that we can step into from time to time in order to focus our lights, to help us recognize them, and to help us judge whether or not they conduce to our hopes for integrity, happiness, intimacy, and purpose. Maybe we're seeing by too much self-projection? Maybe we're seeking to be seen in too much artificial reputation?

One of the sheds where I can step out of my usual lights and take a bit more of a self-accepting and non-judgmental evaluative stance toward them is the American military cemetery. Another less-locative shed that is held out to all of us in common is Scripture, where light is presented not so much as a beam or a wave as a person, Jesus Christ, whose life, teaching, death, and resurrection polarize our various lights and project them onto the plane of love where the body of Christ has its dimension.

That same Light in Scripture tells us that we are called to be light ourselves, not people who need to hold the spotlight but people by whom others may recognize what is true in our times and what is good in themselves. What new beauty might people see by us if we implicated ourselves more fully in the light of hope and contoured the shadows of our day with streaks of compassion?

*Fr. Chase, csc*



## FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 2 February - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

### CALENDAR - LENT TERM WEEK III

Sunday 2	PRESENTATION OF THE LORD		
	9.00am	Sung Latin Mass	
	11.00 am	Sung English Mass	
Monday 3	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Lawrence, Dunstan et al.</i>
Tuesday 4	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 5	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Agatha</i>
Thursday 6	12.30 - 1.00pm	Adoration	
	1.05pm	Mass	<i>St Paul Miki and companions</i>
Friday 7	1.05pm	Mass	
	7.30pm	Vespers and Meditation	
Saturday 8	11.30am (NB)	Mass celebrated by Bishop Doyle	
	4.30 - 5.30	Confessions	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 9	5TH 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

## MASS AT TRINITY

Will be celebrated by Fr Mark on Monday at 6.15pm. All are welcome.

## ALL-NIGHT ADORATION



There will be all-night adoration on Friday 21-Saturday 22 February. Please sign up to watch (half-hour slots).

## FISHER FRIENDS

For the past two years, senior members of Fisher House have visited Palazzola, the idyllic lakeside retreat of the English College in Rome, in August. Details of this year's excursion are on the notice board, or email Fr Mark on ml709.

## FROM CAMBRIDGE TO THE CROSS

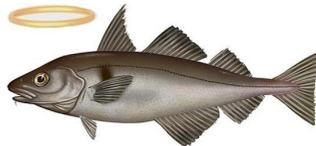
The Catholic institutions in Cambridge are collaborating during Lent, to share our devotional journey. Our own contribution will be on Friday 6 March, when we will hold our traditional *Stations of the Cross*. We are looking for poems, meditations, music that you have written. A sign-up list will appear in the next few weeks.

## FISHER COMMITTEE



The Fisher AGM, with election of the new committee will take place on Sunday 16 February - if you are a first year, why not consider standing for election? We are also looking for candidates for the Chair's position. A sign-up list is in the lobby outside the chapel.

## HADDOCS



Our medical ethics discussion group, especially but not exclusively for Medics, meets on Monday at 6.30pm in the Fisher Room to discuss *conscientious objection*.

## BLESSING OF ST BLAISE

The traditional blessing of throats will take place after all Masses this weekend.

## DOCTORAL PROJECT

Wilf Jones, a member of our community who is studying liturgical practice for his doctorate, will briefly address us after Sunday Masses this weekend.

## APOLOGIA

Our popular series of talks on Catholic theology and culture returns on Tuesday, with a meal at 7.00pm, and at 8.00pm a talk given by Dr Amy Daughton as part of our Newman lecture series.

## BENSON CLUB



The book for this term is classic Spanish novel *The House of Ulloa* by Emilia Pardo Bazan. We will meet to discuss it on Monday 12 March.

## SVP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) meets weekly on Wednesdays at 5.00pm. The SVP also operates the nightly soup runs. To sign up, please contact Nikhil on naa49.

## DOLPHINS

Our invincible football team meets for training on Sundays, 3.00pm on Jesus Green.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

**£437.88**

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

Contactless donation of £4 available after 11.00am Mass

## NEWMAN LECTURE SERIES



The next lecture in our series to mark the canonization of Cardinal Newman will be on Tuesday 4 February at 8.00pm, when Dr Amy Daughton will speak on *Newman and Women*. Dr Daughton was, until last year, at the Margaret Beaufort Institute, and now works at the University of Birmingham.

## VON HÜGEL LECTURE

Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald will speak on Friday, 7 February, at the Von Hügel Institute, on 'Christians in the Arab World'. Cardinal Fitzgerald was for long the Vatican's expert on the Arab world.

## OPEN OFFICE

Join Sr Ann for a lovely cup of Tea, Fridays from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

