

# FISHER HOUSE



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER – 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### CALENDAR

All Masses are now open to the public.

Please sign-up online for Sunday Masses (inc. Saturday Vigil).

Sunday 27	26 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	10.30am	Mass	
Monday 28	8.20am	Mass	
	1.05pm	Mass	
Tuesday 29	8.20am	Mass	<i>Ss Michael, Gabriel &amp;</i>
	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Raphael, archangels</i>
Wednesday 30	8.20am	Mass	<i>St Jerome</i>
	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 1 October	8.20am	Mass	<i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus</i>
	1.05pm	Mass	
Friday 2	8.20am	Mass	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>
	1.05pm	Mass	
Saturday 3	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday</i>
	6pm	Mass	<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>
Sunday 4	27 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
	9am	Mass	<i>Sung Latin</i>
	11am	Mass	<i>Sung English</i>
	6pm	Mass	

### ALUMNI WEEKEND

Welcome to our Fisher House alumni, wherever you are. As we prepare to welcome a new cohort of Cambridge Catholics, I'm pleased to say that the Chaplaincy has continued to be a vital and much-loved presence to us during these past months. Prayer has gone up at daily and Sunday Masses for our alums, and especially the newly qualified medics thrown in at the deep end during COVID. As you may know, an 'ecclesiastical peculiar' like Fisher House is not part of a diocese and gets no funding from the Church, other than the Church which is our members, present and past. We remain most grateful for your support in prayer and materially at all times, and especially at this one. Wishing you every blessing,

*Professor Janet Soskice, CUCA President*

## HEALTHY SPINE

*Paul Norris, the new Pastoral Assistant at Fisher House reflects on today's Gospel.*

I've just finished my first week as a pastoral assistant here at Fisher House, having graduated from Queens' this summer. It's been hard to adjust to working regular hours in surroundings where I'm used to being an English student, which entailed (what I now realise was) a lot of free time, plus the occasional mad rush of work. Having the library to myself all day without scrambling towards an essay deadline is in some ways a dream, though of course the novelty is beginning to wear off and I'm looking forward to sharing it with others again, whenever that will be.

In addition to its spiritual meaning, the gospel for this week is good advice for the workplace: don't promise more than you can deliver, but try to deliver more than you promise. I'm not sure I've managed this so far, although there's only so much you can excel expectations when updating spreadsheets.

The second son reminds me of Mark, not the evangelist but the spineless anti-hero of *Peep Show*, a TV programme I've been rewatching recently. Mark is incapable of committing to a decision. When his company fires all its staff, he starts a protest group, then immediately caves in to management's demand that the group be absolved. Having betrayed his co-workers, he still joins them in vandalising the company offices. When he is discovered, he loses the benefits of his betrayal.

Matthew (evangelist, not spineless anti-hero) doesn't specify whether the second son intended to deceive his father by saying he would work when he wouldn't. My hunch is that he felt like he would do it at the time, but life got in the way, and he didn't get round to it. Being obedient regardless of circumstances isn't an abdication of personal responsibility, but the basis of it, its backbone.

It would be quite right to call Mark of *Peep Show* and the second son's inconsistency *spineless*. The spine holds everything together, allows us to walk wherever we'd like to go. Without a backbone of integrity, self-knowledge and obedience, all our good intentions and affirmative words are nothing but formless jelly.

## SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER YEAR A — 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### FIRST READING

*Ezekiel 18:25-28*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'  
The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalms 24:4-9*

℟: Remember your mercy, Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. ℟
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord. ̎

3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. ̎

## SECOND READING

*St Paul to the Philippians 2:1-11*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings in the heavens,  
on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

## ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,

and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

*Matthew 21:28-32*

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen