

FISHER HOUSE



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 24 JANUARY – 3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Masses are all in-person. See our [Facebook Page](#) for livestream.

SUNDAY 24	3 rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 10.30am	Mass English
Monday 25	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>Conversion of St Paul</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 26	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>Sts Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 27	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>St Angela Merici, Virgin</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 28	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 29	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm 6.30pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration Vespers & Reflection
Saturday 30	1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday</i> Eucharistic Adoration

EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 24	12.00pm 8.00pm	Fisher Friends Virtual Coffee. Join using this link , or the Meeting ID: 970 5370 1291. Doctrinal Formation Group. If you wish to attend, please contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
Tuesday 26	7.00pm	Apologia – Teresa Kehoe will talk about the mission of St Vincent de Paul, an international network of charity started by students. Zoom ID: 979 6209 1121, Pass: 229431
Wednesday 27	7.00pm	Postdocs will meet online. Contact Kotryna (kb449).
Thursday 28	4.00pm 6.30pm	Aquinas Lecture organized by Blackfriars, Cambridge. Prof Douglas Hedley, will speak on Yearning for Transcendence: Christian Platonism and Werner Beierwaltes. To obtain Zoom link, please register here . Benson Club will discuss Catholic poems on the topics of ‘epiphany’ and ‘crisis’. Email Paul (pn303) if you would like to come, or to suggest a poem.
Friday 29	3.00pm 6.30pm 8.00pm	Society of St Vincent de Paul Spiritual Meeting over Zoom. Contact Nikhil Antony (naa49). Vespers in the chapel and on livestream, with a short reflection. Summa Theologiae Group will meet online. Contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
Every day	9am to 6pm	Chapel open for private prayer. Please leave a kneeler on the floor when you leave, whether or not you have used one, so we know your space needs to be sanitised.
Monday to Saturday	1.00pm	Rosary for repose of Fr Mark’s soul. On Zoom; see Facebook group for details, or contact Paul (pn303).

NOTICES

FR MARK CONDOLENCE BOOK

To share loving memories of, and prayers for, our dear chaplain Fr Mark, we have made an online condolence book. You can add a message [here](#).

APOLOGIA: 'FINDING CHRIST IN THE POOR'

At 7.00pm on Tuesday, Teresa Kehoe will talk about the mission of St Vincent de Paul, an international network of charity started by students. Teresa is the Young Adult Manager of the St Vincent de Paul Society of England and Wales. You can join the Zoom meeting [here](#) and with the details below:

Meeting ID: 979 6209 1121

Passcode: 229431

ADVERT FOR THE FINANCE AND HR MANAGER

If you are interested please follow [the link](#). This is an ideal post for a parent with a financial back-ground who is looking for part time work during school hours.

ENTERPRISING CATHOLICS

A Cambridge alumnus has set up a Catholic mentoring scheme that might interest you. Enterprising Catholics is a voluntary advice and mentoring scheme which connects Catholics who are (thinking about) setting up an enterprise (whether a business, professional firm, social enterprise, or charity) with Catholics who have already founded successful enterprises and want to share their advice. To learn more, please visit [their website](#). To volunteer as a 'mentee' or 'mentor', please email volunteer@enterprisingcatholics.org.

REFLECTION

AT ONCE, THEY LEFT THEIR NETS

When I heard the awful news that Fr Mark was moving into a hospice, I was overcome not only by sadness and loss, but also by another unfamiliar feeling. I desperately wanted to do *something*, though I was not sure what I could do. Many others must have felt the same way, and sent in messages asking how to support our chaplain. We are so used to hearing sentiments along the lines of 'Prayer is all well and good, but it only means anything if you act on it'. The extract from a Lancelot Andrewes sermon that Fr Chase read at the Advent Service last term concludes along these lines, as Andrewes disapproves of our complacent religion, which 'is more a contemplation, than a motion, or a stirring to do ought'. It is difficult, then, to hear that all you can do for someone is pray.

Reluctant to heed this message, to be still and contemplate, I invented tasks of dubious usefulness, tracking down photos and videos of Fr Mark online, desperate to feel some kind of connection with him. I inadvertently embodied the warning from the final Apologia talk of last term that acedia, the forgotten eighth deadly sin, a kind of spiritual laziness, a reluctance to confront underlying sorrows, expresses itself more often in activity than in lassitude.

In his homily on his thirtieth anniversary of priesthood, Fr Mark reflected on the consolations of scripture during the pandemic. At first glance, the readings today offer little consolation. None say quite what I want them to say. Having lost so much that made Cambridge life familiar and joyful, it is easy enough to agree with St Paul that 'the world as we know it is passing away'. But it seems impossible, even perverse, to live as though we 'had nothing to mourn for'. And if God was willing to spare Nineveh for renouncing its evil, why would he take away such a faithful servant?

I don't have any answer to questions like these. They introduce a moment of hesitation before I can accept God's truth. This makes it difficult to relate to the instant obedience of Jonah in the first reading,

and of Jesus' early disciples in the Gospel. Unlike me, they are immediately willing to lay down their preoccupations, their doubts, their busyness, to follow a path they did not choose.

Perhaps there is some consolation in the passages which are left out from today's readings. Jonah initially refuses to undertake the journey to Nineveh, leading to his infamous nautical misadventure. And when Simon Peter has to risk laying down his life rather than just his net, he denies knowing Jesus. It is easy enough to follow Christ when we are made into another kind of fisher, much harder when *we* are the prey, facing imprisonment in a Roman cell or the belly of a whale.

Somehow I didn't notice until a few days ago that the knocker on the front door of the old house is shaped like a fish. Two Gospel passages meet in one small ornament: today's promise that the disciples will be 'fishers of men', and 'knock, and the door will be opened'. Now, even if our knock is heard, one face will no longer greet us. In this unfamiliar world, any certainties about what lies on the other side of the door God is calling us to open are much harder, at least for me, to sustain.

This kind of hesitation is not antithetical to Scripture, but integral to it. If it were easy to believe, the gospel would not be a gospel at all: it is good *news*, something which overthrows everything we previously believed, new not just 2000 years ago but in every age, and in every moment of every life.

So though I will always feel Fr Mark's loss, I will hopefully move beyond this fruitless desire for activity. This need is no doubt driven by a sense of uncompletion, an overwhelming consciousness of things undone and unsaid. But there will always be things undone and unsaid. The only life that ended with a sense of complete fulfilment, with a true statement that 'it is finished', was Christ's, and we find our fulfilment only in him. I hope soon to be able to put down the false busyness of the net: preoccupations which, unlike the apostles', do not catch any fish, but only my own attention. And as we pray for Fr Mark, we could pray also for ourselves: for the faith to be still.

Paul

MASS TEXTS

SUNDAY 24 JANUARY YEAR I — 3RD 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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour, and God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24 (25)

℟: Lord, make me know your ways.

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.
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

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is close at hand:
repent, and believe the Good News.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:14–20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.’ And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after 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.