

# FISHER HOUSE



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 31 JANUARY – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY 31	4 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME <a href="#">10.30am</a>	Mass English
Monday 1 Feb	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 2	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>Presentation of the Lord</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 3	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>St Blaise, Bishop &amp; Martyr</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 4	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 5	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm 6.30pm	Mass <i>St Agatha, Virgin &amp; Martyr</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration Vespers & Reflection
Saturday 6	1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>St Paul Miki and Companions</i> Eucharistic Adoration

### EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 31	12.00pm	Fisher Friends Virtual Coffee. Zoom ID: 973 7997 0787.
	8.00pm	Doctrinal Formation Group will meet online. Contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
Tuesday 2	7.00pm	Apologia. Fr Robert will talk about God, Beauty, and Metaphysics. See below for details.
Wednesday 3	7.00pm	Post-doc Society will meet for Bible study and discussion on Zoom. Contact Kotryna Bloznelyte (kb449).
Thursday 4	6.30pm	Benson Club will meet for a creative writing workshop on the topics of 'epiphany' and 'crisis'. Email Paul (pn303) if you would like to come, attaching a document of your own writing before Wednesday evening if you would like it to be discussed. All submissions will be anonymised.
Friday 5	6.30pm	Vespers in the chapel and on livestream, with a reflection by Frank Ngo about the 26 Martyrs of Japan, on the 424 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of their martyrdom and the eve of their feast day.
	8.00pm	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.

## NOTICES

### REMEMBERING FR MARK

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](#).

Fr. Mark's funeral will take place at 12:30pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at Westminster Cathedral. You can attend via the livestream which can be accessed from the site [www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk).

We will also hold a Requiem Mass at Fisher House on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. This Mass will be subject to the same restrictions we have for our regular Sunday Masses. We will advertise a signup link closer to the time. Later on in the year when there are fewer restrictions we hope to hold a second Requiem Mass in Cambridge for Fr Mark.

In order to ensure that we can have fresh flowers to go beneath Fr Mark's portrait, a signup list has been created so that people can volunteer either to arrange the flowers themselves or arrange for a florist to deliver them. If you would like to help commemorate Fr Mark in this way, you can sign up for a slot [here](#).

### APOLOGIA

At 7.00pm on Tuesday, Fr Robert will talk about God, Beauty and Metaphysics. As well as being our acting chaplain, Fr Robert is working on a PhD about the relationship between Quantum Physics and Thomistic philosophy, and is particularly interested in the beauty of science and mathematics. Zoom ID: 963 1326 6201, Passcode: 339572

### ENTERPRISING CATHOLICS

Enterprising Catholics offers a voluntary advice/mentoring scheme and connects aspiring and early-stage Catholic entrepreneurs (whether setting up a business, professional partnership, social enterprise, or charity) with Catholics who have already founded successful enterprises and want to listen and provide guidance. Enterprising Catholics' mentors offer international perspectives (being based in Germany, Ireland, Spain and across the UK) and cross-sectoral expertise. To learn more, please visit [their website](#). To volunteer as a 'mentee' or 'mentor', please email [volunteer@enterprisingcatholics.org](mailto:volunteer@enterprisingcatholics.org).

## REFLECTION

### Devotion to the Lord's Affairs

From today's second reading from St Paul to the Corinthians, we could be forgiven for thinking that St Paul has a rather negative view of marriage, saying as he does that he'd like to see people free from worry, but that a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife. Stripped of any historical context, we could imagine St. Paul sounding a little bit like the misogynistic Professor Higgins from My Fair Lady where at one point he breaks out into song about the virtues of the unmarried state: "A pensive man am I, of philosophical joys, who likes to meditate, contemplate, free from humanity's mad inhuman noise, But, let a woman in your life, and your sabbatical is through, in a line that never ends comes an army of her friends, come to jabber and to chatter and to tell her what the matter is with YOU."

There is however a historical context to St. Paul's letter. St Paul was having to deal with a rather delicate pastoral situation where the Christians of Corinth were immersed in a culture of idolatry. Since cultic prostitution was an important part of pagan worship, many Christians concluded that sexual relationships must be sinful. St Paul therefore had to choose his words carefully so that those Christians who held such mistaken views might listen to him.

A few verses before today's reading, St Paul writes "let everyone lead the life which the Lord has assigned to them, in which God has called them." It is thus part of God's divine plan that some people should get married, and other people remain unmarried. Marriage is indeed a beautiful way of doing the Lord's work, but the unmarried state can also be beautiful. A few days before Fr Mark died, I was very moved by what someone said after we had prayed an online Rosary together for him: "we are Fr Mark's children; he has many, many children; he is a father to us all." When someone is true to their God given vocation, it can be inspiring indeed. Each of us has a vocation, but whatever our calling might be, if we devote ourselves to the Lord's affairs, then His divine beauty will radiate throughout our lives.

Fr Robert

## MASS TEXTS

SUNDAY 31 JANUARY YEAR I — 4<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

*Deuteronomy 18:15–20*

Moses said to the people: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”

The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 94 (95)*

℟: O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. ℟
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. ℟
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ ℟

### SECOND READING

*1 Corinthians 7:32–35*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world’s affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world’s affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

## **ALLELUIA**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children.  
Alleluia!

## **GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:21–28*

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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.