

FISHER HOUSE



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY – 5TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY 7	5 th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 10.30am	Mass English
Monday 8	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 9	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 10	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass <i>St Scholastica, Virgin</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 11	8.20am 1.05pm 5.20pm – 5.50pm	Mass <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 12	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm 6.30pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration Vespers & Reflection
Saturday 13	1.05pm 5.30pm – 6.00pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration

EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 7	12.00pm 8.00pm	Fisher Friends Virtual Coffee. Join using this link or the Meeting ID: 476 758 5612. Doctrinal Formation Group will meet online. Contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
Tuesday 9	7.00pm	Apologia. Sr Margaret Atkins OSA will speak about Technology, Technocracy and Wisdom. See notices for details.
Wednesday 10	7.00pm	Post-doc Society will meet for Bible study and discussion on Zoom. Contact Kotryna Bloznelyte (kb449).
Thursday 11	6.30pm	Benson Club will meet to discuss various poems on topics of wood, trees, forests and ash. Email Paul (pn303) if you would like to come.
Friday 12	6.30pm 8.00pm	Vespers in the chapel and on livestream, with a reflection. Summa Theologiae Group will meet online. Contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
Saturday 13	5.30pm	Oxford and Cambridge Lourdes Pilgrimage Meeting. See notices for details.
Every day	9.00am to 6.00pm	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

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

At 7.00pm on Tuesday, Sr Margaret Atkins OSA will talk about Technology, Technocracy and Wisdom. Sr Margaret was Senior Lecturer in Theology at Leeds Trinity University and has particular interests in virtue ethics, medical and environmental ethics, and St Augustine. You can join the Zoom meeting with the details below:

Meeting ID: 974 9784 7116

Passcode: 195452

DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER YOUTH MINISTRY

The Diocese of Westminster is looking for student volunteers (paid or unpaid) to help run retreats, both online and in-person at their centre in Pinner. This promises to be a great way to evangelise and to meet other young Catholics. Find out more on the retreat centre's [website](#) or email Ruth Warner (ruthwarner@rcdow.org.uk).

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

If you would like to take part in a conversation about the Oxford and Cambridge pilgrimage to Lourdes at 5.30pm on Saturday 13th February, please email lourdesoandc@gmail.com.

ASSISTANT HOUSEMISTRESS VACANCY

The Oratory School in Woodcote, a girls' boarding house not far from Oxford, is looking for a recent female graduate who is perhaps considering a career in Catholic education to work in a residential role. For further details, see their [vacancies page](#) or email Dr Victoria Fogg (v.fogg@oratory.co.uk).

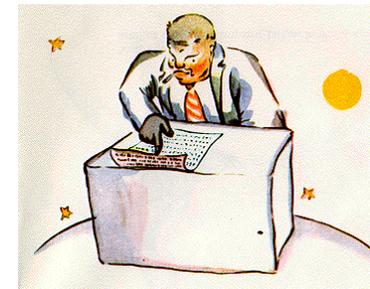
FISHER HOUSE PRO-LIFE SOCIETY

The Fisher House Pro-Life Society organises talks and social events, connecting pro-lifers in Cambridge and to informing chaplaincy members about abortion and other pro-life issues such as euthanasia, eugenics, stem-cell research and surrogacy. Contact George Gillow (gg477) to sign up to our mailing list. Our talk this term will be held on 28th Feb (on stem cell technology).

REFLECTION

I AM A SERIOUS MAN!

In Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's wonderful children's book (funnier and wiser than most grown-up books) *Le petit prince*, the eponymous prince journeys through the cosmos meeting bizarre characters perched on tiny planets. One is a businessman, too busy to look up from his account book at his visitor. He explains (tersely) that he owns all the stars in the sky. Asked what he does with them, he says: 'I count and recount them. It's hard work. But I am a serious man!'



Our readings today disrupt our self-seriousness, our feeling that we are in charge of our own affairs, even of the stars: in the Psalm, it is God who determines their number, and God who heals our wounds. Both actions reveal our frailty: the inability of our bodies to heal and our minds to understand.

Mark's Gospel is a litany of misunderstandings, a testament not only to the presence of the divine in our lives but also our inability to grasp that presence. The original manuscript ends with the women at the empty tomb, silent and afraid. Today, Jesus prevents devils from speaking 'because they knew who he was', an instance of him concealing his true nature (the Messianic Secret).

Writing about Mark's Gospel, literary critic Frank Kermode suggests that 'the shrine of the single sense' is inaccessible and interpretation 'henceforth linked to loss and disappointment'. While we can discern some truths from scripture, some mysteries remain beyond our power to unify, indissolubly plural.

Saint-Exupéry's novella begins with the narrator's frustration that adults will not recognise his drawing of a snake that has eaten an elephant, instead insisting that it is a hat. Jesus' life reminds us not to settle with any single, common-sense interpretation. Sometimes calling a spade a spade, a hat a hat, or a carpenter a carpenter, misses the alternative sense where their true nature resides. The most serious of men is far from the sanest, let alone saintliest.

Paul

MASS TEXTS

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY YEAR I — 5TH 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

Job 7:1–4, 6–7

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146 (147)

℟: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due.
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name.
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16–19, 22–23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak: I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia!

He took our sicknesses away,
and carried our diseases for us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29–39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

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.