

# FISHER HOUSE



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY – 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY 14	6 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME <a href="#">10.30am</a>	Mass English
Monday 15	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 16	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 17	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass ASH WEDNESDAY Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 18	8.20am 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 19	8.20am 1.05pm 3.00pm 5.30–6.00pm 6.30pm	Mass Mass Stations of the Cross Eucharistic Adoration Vespers & Reflection
Saturday 20	1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration

### EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 14	12.00pm	Fisher Friends Virtual Coffee. Join using the link on the WhatsApp group.
	8.00pm	Doctrinal Formation Group will meet online. Contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
Tuesday 16	7.00pm	Apologia. On 'Being Catholic in the Workplace'. See notices for details.
Wednesday 17	7.00pm	Post-doc Society will meet for Bible study and discussion on Zoom. Contact Kotryna Bloznelyte (kb449).
Thursday 18	6.30pm	Benson Club will meet to discuss various poems by T.S. Eliot, Philip Larkin, Louise Glück and others on the topics of wood, trees, forests and ash. Contact Paul (pn303).
Friday 19	6.30pm	Vespers in the chapel and on livestream, with a reflection from AJ Loy.
	8.00pm	Summa Theologiae Group will meet online. Contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
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'S FUNERAL

Our chaplain's funeral will be held in Westminster Cathedral at 11.30am on Thursday. You can attend via [livestream](#). There will be no 1.05pm mass on this day. To share loving memories of and prayers for Fr Mark, we have made an online condolence book. You can add a message [here](#).

### APOLOGIA

On Tuesday at 7pm our speaker will discuss the challenges of the modern workplace and propose how we can assess and improve workplaces from a Catholic perspective. Our speaker is the founder of the Enterprising Catholics scheme. He has worked in the legal, finance, and non-profit sectors, and was most recently a partner at a law firm in the City.

Zoom Meeting ID: 928 5747 7531, Passcode: 967104

### FISHER HOUSE PODCAST

This is a forum for Catholic Students to better understand their faith and how it relates to the world. The first episode, a talk by Fr Mark on ecclesiology and Vatican II, is available [here](#) and on [Google Podcasts](#). Get in touch with Paul (pn303) if you would like to be involved in future episodes.

### RADIO MARIA SCIENCE AND FAITH

Radio Maria have released a new Science and Faith programme on [Radio Maria England](#). The first episode is on Cosmology: From Alpha to Omega and features Fr Robert, as well as Prof. Paul Shellard and Br Paolo Beltrame SJ. They tackle questions on the nature of the universe, its beginning and the end, and how it fits with the Christian idea of creation and end times. Broadcast times: Sun 14 Feb at 5pm, Wed at 2am, Thu at 11am and Fri at 9pm.

### ENTERPRISING CATHOLICS SCHEME

Enterprising Catholics is a voluntary advice/mentoring scheme which connects aspiring and early-stage Catholic entrepreneurs (setting up a business, professional partnership, social enterprise, or charity) with Catholics who have already founded successful enterprises and can provide guidance. To learn more, please visit [their website](#) or email [volunteer@enterprisingcatholics.org](mailto:volunteer@enterprisingcatholics.org).

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 3pm every Friday in the chapel. At 7pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March we will have the annual poetic Stations of the Cross, a chance to share poems, reflections and music inspired by the stations. You can sign up to contribute [here](#).

## REFLECTION

### DOUBLY MASKED

When I was younger, my left hand was covered in warts. I was excruciatingly conscious of its ugly appearance, and developed various strategies to keep the hand out of sight: keeping it under a table, folding my arms, putting my hands in my pockets. These defensive postures could not help but weaken my confidence. I was grateful for colder weather as it gave me an excuse to wear gloves. However much progress we have made towards celebrating a wider variety of bodies, the range of acceptability is still pretty narrow, and I felt marked out, furtive, even guilty, for my mild deformity.

Though our first reading encourages the stigmatisation of skin diseases (perhaps a sad necessity when they were incurable and contagious), when leprosy first appears in the Bible it is a sign of God's favour. He tells Moses to put his hand to his bosom, 'and when he drew it out, his hand was covered with leprosy, white as snow' (Exodus 4:6). God quickly reverses the transformation, as he does in the person of Jesus in the Gospel. His healing the body is a physical sign of his greater spiritual power, to heal sins, and indeed when my warts went away I felt it as a great blessing, learning at the same moment about the body's grace and its weakness.

But there are still more mysterious sides to this Gospel passage. Jesus does not only reach out physically to the leprous man, but the man himself seems to affect Jesus' body. As Fr Pablo pointed out to me, the Greek verb translated as 'feeling sorry for him' is *splanchnistheis*, literally 'to be moved in the innards'.

Exactly what this means has obviously puzzled translators, as renderings range from 'Jesus was indignant' (NIV) to 'Jesus was filled with pity' (GNT) or 'moved with compassion' (KJV). The inscrutability of the Greeks' *splancha* led poet and classicist Ruth Padel to write: 'We are doubly masked. Our innards in themselves are hard to see, and they mask the feelings they contain.'

In one sense, the secret is out: we know who Christ was, as those around him at the time could only guess. But the nature of his incarnation, the extent to which he shared and shares our physical and emotional life, remains a mystery.

It is a mystery the healed man could not keep to himself. When Jesus' secret is revealed, he has 'to stay outside in places where nobody lived', outside the *polis*, which is not just a physical place but also the entirety of social and cultural life. Jesus does not only heal us of our feelings of shame, but shares them.

## MASS TEXTS

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY YEAR I — 6<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

*Leviticus 13:1–2, 44–46*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man’s skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

‘The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, “Unclean, unclean.” As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.’

The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 31 (32)*

℟: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. ℟
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: ‘I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.’  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. ℟
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. ℟

### SECOND READING

*1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord.

## **ALLELUIA**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.  
Alleluia!

## **GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:40–45*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to 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.