

FISHER HOUSE



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY – 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY 21	1 st SUNDAY OF LENT 10.30am	Mass English
Monday 22	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass <i>Chair of St Peter</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 23	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass <i>St Polycarp</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 24	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 25	8.20am 1.05pm 5.00–5.30pm 7.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration Requiem Mass for Fr Mark
Friday 26	8.20am 1.05pm 3.00pm 6.30pm	Mass Mass Stations of the Cross Vespers & Reflection
Saturday 27	1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration

EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 21	12.00pm	Fisher Friends Virtual Coffee. Join using this link or Meeting ID: 977 0795 2460. The link will be the same each week from now on.
	8.00pm	Doctrinal Formation Group will meet online. Contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
Tuesday 23	7.00pm	Apologia. Fr Peter Gallagher SJ will speak about 'Abandonment to Divine Providence'. Details in the notices.
Wednesday 24	6.30pm	Benson Club will meet for a creative writing workshop based on last week's topics. Contact Paul (pn303) if you would like to come or to send a poem to discuss.
	7.00pm	Post-doc Society will meet for Bible study and discussion on Zoom. Contact Kotryna Bloznelyte (kb449).
Friday 26	6.30pm	Vespers in the chapel and on livestream, with a short reflection.
	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

REQUIEM MASS FOR FR MARK

We will celebrate a Requiem Mass for Fr Mark at 7pm this Thursday. All are welcome to attend, either in person or via livestream. You can sign-up to come in person [here](#), or follow the livestream on our [Facebook page](#).

REMEMBERING FR MARK

To help us remember and pray for Fr Mark, prayer cards are available on the table outside the chapel. Feel free to take one after Mass. To share loving memories of and prayers for Fr Mark, we have made an online condolence book. You can add a message [here](#). You can also read [the homily](#) given by Fr Ambrose Henley OSB at Fr Mark's funeral in Westminster Cathedral last week. The video of the funeral should be available soon on the Cathedral [website](#).

APOLOGIA

On Tuesday at 7pm Fr Peter Gallagher SJ will speak to us about 'Abandonment to Divine Providence'. Fr Peter was Head of Philosophy and then Academic Vice-Principal at Heythrop College, University of London, and now teaches philosophy at Centre Sèvres, Paris, with particular interests in aesthetics and Ancient Greek philosophy. [Zoom ID: 951 8350 9199, Passcode: 211772](#).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 3pm every Friday in the chapel. At 7pm on Friday 12th 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](#).

RADIO MARIA SCIENCE AND FAITH SERIES

Several Fisher House members have been involved in the production of a new science and faith series on Radio Maria. This week's episode considers questions about Adam and Eve? Are there any conflicts between the Book of Genesis and theories of evolution? Tune in to [Radio Maria England](#) to get some answers from our expert scientists and theologians. Broadcast times: Sun 21 Feb at 5pm, Wed at 2am, Thu at 11am and Fri at 9pm.

CORRECTION

In my reflection in last week's newsletter I suggested that the Greek word *splanchnistheis* had been translated variously as 'Jesus was indignant' and 'Jesus was filled with pity'. It has been pointed out to me that the former comes from a slightly different manuscript tradition, so is not a translation of the same word in the original. Apologies for the error, and thanks to Fr Pablo for pointing it out! – Paul

REFLECTION

THE HOPE OF OUR RELIGION

The other day, I was looking through some of Fr Mark's past sermons on his old computer, and in one of his sermons, he quoted a passage from C.S. Lewis who was struggling to cope with the loss of his beloved wife: "Talk to me about the truth of religion, and I will listen gladly. Talk to me about the duty of religion and I will listen submissively. But don't come talking to me about the consolations of religion, or I will suspect that you don't understand." Reflecting on this passage, Fr Mark added "Yet that very pain, that cry of anguish, that throbbing pain of loss, is itself a lifeline that can signal hope amid the darkness of despair. The greater the love, the greater the anguish at the loss of love."

Now in today's Gospel, we're told that the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and from the sounds of it, Jesus wasn't just in the wilderness in a physical sense, but also in a spiritual sense being tempted by Satan for forty days. Given the nature of our modern lives, we're far more likely to find ourselves in a wilderness of the spiritual kind than of the physical kind. Finding ourselves in a spiritual wilderness could be due to any number of things – perhaps it could be due to the death of someone close to us, or a broken relationship, or failing our exams – but whatever the cause, a spiritual wilderness is not a place where anyone wants to be. But when we are in the wilderness, what we need more than anything is not consolation, but hope. Consolation might make the wilderness more bearable, but hope leads us to believe there will be an end to this wilderness.

In the anguish, the pain of loss, and the darkness, we see a lifeline, for in the anguish, we long for peace, in the loss we see we really had something to lose, and even to recognize we are in the dark is to acknowledge the possibility of there being light. The wilderness makes us realize we have these privations in our lives, but by God's grace, we can hope that one day what is missing will not only be restored, but will be restored to us in a way that far surpasses what we originally had. The peace of eternal beatitude will far surpass the peace of the world, our unity with our loved ones in heaven will far exceed the unity we ever had with them on earth, and in the beatific light we will enjoy the fullness of God's beauty. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ, and so during our time in the wilderness, we ask for God's grace to hope in what Jesus promises: "The time has come, the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."

Fr Robert

MASS TEXTS

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY YEAR I — 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Genesis 9:8–15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’

God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.’

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31 (32)

℟: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

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 Peter 3:18–22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people ‘by water’, and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God’s right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:12–15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.’

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.