

# FISHER HOUSE



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY 28	2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT <a href="#">10.30am</a>	Mass English
Monday 1	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass <i>St David, Bishop</i> Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 2	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 3	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 4	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 5	8.20am 1.05pm 3.00pm 5.30–6.00pm 6.30pm	Mass Mass Stations of the Cross Eucharistic Adoration Vespers & Reflection
Saturday 6	1.05pm 5.30– 6.00pm	Mass <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i> Eucharistic Adoration

### EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 28	12.00pm	Fisher Friends Virtual Coffee. Join using <a href="#">this link</a> or Meeting ID: 977 0795 2460.
Tuesday 2	7.00pm	<b>Apologia.</b> Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director of Aid to the Church in Need, will speak about the charity's work supporting Christians around the world. Details in the notices.
Wednesday 3	7.00pm	<b>Post-doc Society</b> will meet for Bible study and discussion on Zoom. Contact Kotryna Bloznelyte (kb449).
Thursday 4	6.30pm	<b>Benson Club</b> will meet to discuss poems about abundance and absence. Contact Paul (pn303).
Friday 5	6.30pm	Vespers in the chapel and on livestream, with a short reflection by Matthew Thal, an MPhil student studying Byzantine history.
	8.00pm	<b>Summa Theologiae Group</b> will meet online. Contact Fr Robert (rwv1001).
	8.00pm	<b>Fisher Friends Lent Reading Group</b> will continue discussing "Love Unknown" by Ruth Burrows. If you would like to join, please contact <a href="mailto:guy.brannan@btopenworld.com">guy.brannan@btopenworld.com</a> .
Every day	9.00am to 6.00pm	<b>Chapel open for private prayer.</b> 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

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CUCA

I know that many of you who are tax-payers kindly make your weekly offering to Fisher House by means of a direct debit. This is certainly the best way to help out. Can I ask you, as part of your Lenten practice, to revisit your direct debit and see if the level is right? It's easy to set these things up and forget about them!

Professor Janet Soskice, CUCA President

### 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, or several. 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 Neville Kyrke-Smith will speak to us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need, a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church. The charity supports over 5,000 projects in 140 countries, helping Christians to celebrate their faith and escape persecution, oppression and poverty. Neville is the National Director of Aid to the Church in Need in the UK.

Zoom ID: 933 8870 5806, Passcode: 972592.

### 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](#).

### 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 modifying our genes - is it playing God? Join Prof. Keith Fox, Director of The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, and Dr. Hilary Yancey, PhD in philosophy, Baylor University, and our acting chaplain Fr. Robert on [Radio Maria](#). Broadcast times: Sun 21 Feb at 5pm, Wed at 2am, Thu at 11am and Fri at 9pm.

## REFLECTION

### WHOSE DUST IS GOLD, AND PAVEMENT STARS

One of many moving details in Prof. Duffy's obituary to his great friend was a reason Fr Mark gave for wanting to become a priest. When the seminary told him to write down ten, one was: 'I should like to wear beautiful vestments'. At seminary, as well as learning how to wear his vestments gracefully, Fr Mark was also well-trained in making lists of ten things: his [eclectic recommendations](#) of top ten Catholic novels, poems, artworks, things to do in Cambridge, etc. attest to his love of beauty in various forms (with cluttered formatting that also attests to his love, as Prof. Duffy described, of kitsch). Remembering his passion for fine things during the service, all the last-minute stress of polishing the candle brass and ironing the altar cloth seemed worthwhile, and not just because the bishop was there.

The desire to be beautifully dressed might seem a shallow one, but today's Gospel is testament to its importance. Throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus hides his true nature, is cast out, despised. It is only here, on the mountain, that he reveals who he truly is, through the transformation of his garments to dazzling white.

Shortly before his death, Fr Mark appeared to me in a dream, adorned in a hippie-style multicoloured chasuble he wouldn't have been seen dead in. And, of course, he wasn't. At his funeral his coffin was adorned with white: the white of baptism, and of transfiguration. All the beauty, all the colour, all the splendour that he had worn and seen and loved was depicted on this plain sheet. Like the blank pages at the end of a book, it accentuated the vivid life that had come before, but also prefigured the life that is to come, summed up not in multicoloured chaos but singular clarity.

I had a prolonged view of Fr Mark's fine workmanship as I was assembling and taking down the Presepe that he built up over the years. I was surprised to find that he had used the back of a painting of the Hagia Sofia as the pavement of his Venetian scene. Discovering this hidden beauty, this underside of surpassing grandeur, made me think of some lines from *Paradise Lost*, themselves recalling the promise made to Abraham that his descendants will be numerous as the stars. As the Father returns home to rest after completing his wondrous creation, Milton reminds us that all that we see leading us upwards—every revelation on the mountaintop, every beautiful thing, every star—is a stone in heaven's pavement:

He through Heaven,  
That opened wide her blazing portals, led  
To God's eternal house direct the way;  
A broad and ample road, whose dust is gold  
And pavement stars, as stars to thee appear...

# MASS TEXTS

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY YEAR I — 2<sup>ND</sup> 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 22:1–2, 9–13, 15–18*

God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he called. ‘Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 115 (116)*

℟: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:  
‘I am sorely afflicted,’  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. ℟
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the Lord’s name. ℟
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. ℟

## SECOND READING

*Romans 8:31–34*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone

condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Matthew 17:5*

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
From the bright cloud the Father’s voice was heard:  
‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

### **GOSPEL**

*Mark 9:2–10*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

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.