

# FISHER HOUSE



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 9 MAY – 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY 9	6 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER <u>10.30am</u>	Mass Sung English
Monday 10	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 11	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 12	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 13	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass Ascension of the Lord Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 14	8.20am 1.05pm 5.30–6.00pm	Mass St Matthias, Apostle Mass Eucharistic Adoration
Saturday 15	8.20am 1.05pm 4.30–5.30pm 6.00pm	Mass Mass Confession Mass Sung Latin (Vigil)

### EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 9	12.00pm	Fisher Friends Virtual Coffee. Join using <a href="#">this link</a> or Meeting ID 977 0795 2460.
	1.00pm	Fisher Society AGM and Election. Join using <a href="#">this link</a> or Meeting ID 975 7844 4027 and Passcode 335719.
	4.30pm	The Dolphins football team will meet for training at the Chesterton Recreation Ground (CB4 IED). No experience necessary. Contact Julia (jw735) if you have any questions.
Tuesday 11	7.00pm	<b>Apologia.</b> Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ will give a talk entitled “‘The Devil’s Gateway’: Women, Power and Authority in the Church”.
Wednesday 12	7.00pm	<b>Post-doc Society</b> will meet for Bible study on Zoom. Contact Kotryna Bloznelyte (kb449).
Thursday 13	7.00pm	<b>Benson Club</b> will meet for a translation workshop. Contact Paul if interested. Knowledge of a foreign language not required.
Friday 14	3.00pm to 5.00pm	<b>Tea on the terrace.</b> An opportunity to relax, take a break from exams and deadlines, and enjoy tea and biscuits at the end of the working week. If anyone would like to help bake some more ambitious refreshments, contact Paul.
	6.30pm	<b>Vespers</b> will be prayed in the chapel, with a short reflection from Julia Wdowin, PhD student at Bennett Institute for Public Policy, on the theme ‘so that your joy may be complete’.
Every day	9.00am to 9.00pm	<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.
	9.00am to 9.00pm	<b>Library open for study.</b> Please sign-up in advance. See the Fisher Society Facebook group for the link.

## NOTICES

### FISHER SOCIETY AGM AND ELECTION

At 1pm on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May the Fisher Society will hold a meeting and elect the new committee for 2021–22. There are various positions available, including chair, vice-chair, secretary, facilities officer and ecumenical officer, as well as the option of being a general member. We are also looking for new bar stewards. If interested, feel free to get in touch with previous committee members for details, or contact Paul.

### SVP SOUP RUN

The Society of St Vincent de Paul soup run will resume on 17<sup>th</sup> May. See the [Cambridge SVP website](#) for details and to put yourself on the rota, or contact Nikhil (naa49).

### FLOWERS FOR CHAPEL

We are looking for help in providing flower arrangements at Sunday masses. No experience needed. If interested, please contact Paul (pn303).

### NEW PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Fisher House is looking for a new Pastoral Assistant for the next academic year. This is a full-time role, lasting ten months, from September 2021 to July 2022. If you would like to apply, please send a CV to the current assistant, Paul Norris (pn303), who would be happy to answer any questions about the job. The deadline for applications is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### SURVEY

A Christian student at the London School of Economics is looking for respondents to an 8–12 minute survey to help his research into the relationship between religious attitudes towards salvation and the cognitive processes of Christians. You can find the survey [here](#).

## REFLECTION

### YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME

‘You did not choose me,’ Jesus tells his disciples in today’s gospel, ‘I chose you.’ To us now, it can seem a counterintuitive message. We are all very much aware of our choice to follow Christ. Few people are Christians automatically. As Charles Taylor (and I apologise that this is the second reflection in a row that draws on Charles Taylor!) suggests, we Christians ‘cannot help looking over our shoulder from time to time, looking sideways’, slightly unsure of ourselves. Many people we know, people we are close to, have no faith, but still live happy, selfless lives.

Comparing ourselves with others, our own faith can seem accidental, the result of chance circumstances, explicable in purely natural terms. This might seem like a particular concern for cradle Catholics, who might see their own religiosity as an overdetermined result of their upbringing, but it is something I often think about as a convert. There are a huge number of unspiritual reasons for my becoming a Catholic. Even the spiritual ones could be explained in natural terms. As a teenager I often felt lost, lacking structure or purpose, and Catholicism gave me both, fitting the shape of my soul like a long-lost jigsaw piece. Just because it *feels* true, a voice often tells me, doesn’t mean it *is* true.

But to me, it seems that the truth of the faith is not like the truth of a mathematical theorem, which exists in the same way however we feel about it. It is more like a friendship: the fact of its existence, the fact that it bears fruit, is its own justification.

In today’s gospel, Jesus does not ask us first of all to believe a set of axioms. He offers us his friendship. And every friendship is contingent in so many ways. As I walk down the street, I pass hundreds of strangers who could be friends, with whom I might share interests, be highly compatible on paper. But we are not friends, simply because our lives have not happened to intersect in a meaningful way.

Our culture, influenced by dating apps, encourages us to think about people quite differently. We rate those we see, curating a selection of people around us who are perfectly matched to our personality, our interests, our desires. But this is a sterile version of friendship, and a sterile version of love.

Friendships arise out of a particular set of circumstances, through chance. The origins of friendships are so often banal: two people are on the same staircase, playing the same sport, in the right place at the right time, and somehow it happens. By tracing these contingent origins, we don’t uproot a friendship, and nor do we uproot our faith by recognising some of its material origins.

We don’t choose our friends, and they don’t choose us. Having formed a friendship it is difficult to explain exactly why or how it happened; we can only say that it did. ‘If I were pressed to say why I love him,’ Montaigne writes of his great friend, ‘I feel that my only reply could be: “Because it was he, because it was I.”’ Christ’s doesn’t love us for our charms or achievements. He doesn’t love us *for* our virtue, but simply *by* virtue of us happening to be here, ourselves. Because it was he, because it was I.

# MASS TEXTS

SUNDAY 9 MAY YEAR I — 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

## 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

*Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. ‘Stand up,’ he said ‘I am only a man after all!’

Then Peter addressed them: ‘The truth I have now come to realise’ he said ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.’

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, ‘Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?’ He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 97 (98)*

℟: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.
3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

## SECOND READING

*1 John 4:7–10*

My dear people,

let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.  
God’s love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God’s love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

*The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.'

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments

you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments

and remain in his love.

I have told you this

so that my own joy may be in you

and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love

than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,

if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know

his master's business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me:

no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you

to go out and to bear fruit,

fruit that will last;

*John 14:23*

and then the Father will give you  
anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you  
is to love one another.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*John 15:9-17*

## 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.