



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Masses are open to the public, with no sign-up required.

Sunday 22 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.00am†	Mass (Sung Latin)
	11.00am†	Mass (Sung English)
Monday 23	1.05pm	Mass
Tuesday 24	8.20am	Mass (cancelled)
	12.30pm	Mass celebrated by Bishop John Arnold
	1.05pm	Mass (cancelled)
Wednesday 25	8.20am	Mass (cancelled)
	1.05pm	Mass <i>St Bede the Venerable</i>
Thursday 26 May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	
	8.20am	Mass
	1.05pm	Mass
Friday 27	8.20am	Mass <i>St Augustine of</i>
	12.30pm	Rosary <i>Canterbury</i>
	1.05pm	Mass
	6.30pm	Sung Vespers and an Evening with Mary, Concluding with a Traditional May Devotion
Saturday 28	1.05pm	Mass
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (Said English)
Sunday 29 May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.00am†	Mass (Sung Latin)
	11.00am†	Mass (Sung English)

† Also livestreamed to [our YouTube channel](#).

THIS WEEK AT FISHER HOUSE

Tuesday 24 May

- 6.00pm – 6.45pm [Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament](#) in the Chapel
 - 7.00pm – 9.15pm [Apologia: Mission – A Risky Business](#) with Robert Toone ([FB](#))
- In the final instalment of this term's Apologia series, we welcome Robert Toone to discuss the opportunities and challenges of missionary work. Robert is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Youth 2000, an international initiative for young people to deepen their faith, which he cofounded in 1990.
- Join us as you can for a 7.00pm homecooked meal, 8.00pm talk, and 9.00pm Night Prayer, followed by the Black Swan Bar from 9.15pm.
- 9.15pm – 10.30pm [Black Swan Bar](#) - Cambridge's most fun and most Catholic bar, serving alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks at prices you won't find elsewhere!

Thursday 26 May

- 6.15pm [Taizé](#) – a reflective service of candlelit prayer, with songs and chants. Contact Songyuan ([sz311](#)) or Lakshmi ([gmail](#)) for more details. ([FB](#))

Friday 27 May

- 3.30pm – 5.30pm [Sr Ann's Open Office](#) – all students warmly welcome for friendship, tea and homebaked goodies! ([FB](#))
- 6.30pm [An Evening with Mary, Concluding with a Traditional May Devotion](#) ([FB](#))

"Mary is not only the bridge joining us to God; she is much more. She is the road God travelled in order to reach us, and the road that we must travel in order to reach him." (Pope Francis, Homily on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 1 January 2021)

We're now in May, the month of Mary - and so we invite you to an exciting special devotion! Join us from 6.30pm for an evening with Mary, starting with Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) in the Chapel – a service of thanksgiving at the close of the working day, with psalms and scripture. A short talk delivered by Sr Ann follows Vespers, concluding with a traditional May devotion – hosted on our Mary Garden on the terrace, if the weather permits! All are most warmly welcome, students and non-students alike.

- 8.00pm – 11.15pm [Black Swan Bar](#) – Cambridge's most fun and most Catholic bar, serving alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks at prices you won't find elsewhere!

Saturday 28 May

- 4.30pm – 5.30pm [Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament](#) in the Chapel

Fisher House, including the Chapel of St John Fisher, is open 8.00am to 10.00pm daily. Students are welcome to use the Fisher Room, its kitchen, the Library and Terrace. You can request interior card access at fisherhouse.org.uk/card-access.

The Fisher Room will be closed from 6.00pm to 8.00pm this coming Thursday 26 May for a CUCA Council Meeting. When the Fisher Room is closed, please access the Library via the Chapel side-door.

REFLECTION: HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN...WHAT DO WE MAKE OF THAT?

My dear friends, whichever way you look at it, the Ascension, which we commemorate this coming Thursday 26 May, seems like an odd sort of a feast.

At first sight, it seems to commemorate a leave-taking: the departure of the Lord from the community which had only recently welcomed him back into their midst after his Passion and death. Surely confusion and trauma, rather than rejoicing, would have been the disciples' reaction, and there doesn't seem much to celebrate in that. At least as strangely, according to the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples are called to account for what seems to be a perfectly normal response to a decidedly abnormal state of affairs: they are asked why they are standing gazing into heaven after the disappearing Lord. But why shouldn't they? What else would we expect them to do?

Perhaps the key to understanding all this is to realise that this feast is intended not to emphasise our increasing distance from Jesus – as he ascends "far above yon azure height" as the old hymn puts it. Rather, this feast is intended to remind us of his abiding closeness to us. It is a feast not of desolation and absence, but of consolation and presence.

If we are members of his body, then even after his Ascension, Christ is inseparably united to us, closer to us than we are to ourselves – present with us not only in all our joys and festivity, but also in all our sorrows and anxiety. As St Augustine puts it: "Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear".

This unity between us and Christ gives us confidence for the future: if Jesus really is the head of his body, the Church, then his entrance into Heaven gives us grounds to hope that this is our destiny too.

And, paradoxically, perhaps that helps to make sense of that odd injunction to the disciples not to stand around staring into the bright blue yonder. Christ will return one day in glory, as we proclaim Sunday by Sunday in the Creed, and then indeed he will take his friends to be with him where he is. But, in the meantime, there is work to be done, in the strength of his Spirit and for his sake: the work of being his body, his presence, in the world he loved and came to save.

There's one other thing. On the feast of the Ascension, the choir of St John's College will stand, as they have for over a hundred years on this day, on the roof of their chapel tower to sing farewell to the Lord on his journey home to Heaven. The Oxonian in

me has always been tempted to see in this somewhat niche Cambridge custom a pale (blue) imitation of another rather more famous occasion of tower-top music-making: Oxford's May Morning. On Thursday, there will be no jumping in the River Cherwell, no morris dancing, no bleary-eyed revellers making their way home through crowded streets. Most people in the city and the university will be utterly oblivious of the whole thing – love it or loathe it, no one could say the same of May Morning in Oxford. A choir will simply sing a motet; those assembled in the seclusion of the court to listen will pray and join in with a hymn. The whole thing will last ten minutes and then everyone will be about their business.

But the very hiddenness and tranquility, even the matter-of-fact briskness of the celebration, tells us something important about this feast. While liturgy, music and art rightly celebrate the Ascension as an extraordinary event, the scriptural descriptions of the

episode are actually surprisingly quiet accounts. A cloud took him from their sight, we read; he withdrew from their view. There is nothing here about trumpet fanfares tearing open the sky, no blaze of glory, nothing dramatic here at all: the Lord *just leaves*. And, we are told, he will return in the way that we have seen him go.

So one of the subtler messages of the Ascension is that we must remain alert for the presence of Christ in still reflection as much as in emotional noise, in the day-to-day and the routine, as much as in the extraordinary and the spectacular. And we shouldn't feel despondent at his departure, or alarmed by the idea of his return, because the Lord who has risen above the heavens is with us always, in all the times and seasons of our lives, until the end of the ages.

God bless,

Sr Ann Swailes OP, Acting Chaplain ([acs92](#))

FISHER HOUSE NOTICES

FISHER DINNER DINING TICKETS NOW RELEASED!

On Monday 13 June 2022, all are welcome to join us for the annual flagship social event in the Catholic Cambridge calendar: the Fisher Dinner. The evening starts with a preprandial reception at Blackfriars Priory at 6.00pm, with a three-course black-tie dinner at Fitzwilliam College at 7.30pm, followed by an all-night afterparty at Fisher House, concluding with Lauds and Breakfast at 7.00am.

The sign-up form for dining tickets is now live at fisherhouse.org.uk/fisher-dinner. Dining tickets are £40 drinking and £35 non-drinking. Tickets are limited, and the sign-up form will close on Monday 30 May at the latest. After completing the form, you will be contacted in the coming days with payment information from the Fisher Society Treasurer.

We have plenty of spaces, and wish to stress that this event is open to everyone in our community, student and non-student alike. Alumni are also most welcome. *There is no need to reserve a dining ticket if you are only joining us for the afterparty!*

LINK TO JOIN THE FISHER FAMILIES WHATSAPP GROUP

We've set up a new WhatsApp group chat to connect families with young children who worship at Fisher House. We hope that this can be a useful resource of community and friendship. Join via the invite link at tinyurl.com/fisherfamilies.

CHANGES TO THE MASS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

We're sorry: there will be no 8.20am Mass this Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 May due to the nonavailability of priests. Additionally, there will be no 1.05pm Mass this Tuesday 25 May. Instead, our only Mass this Tuesday 24 May will be at 12.30pm and celebrated by Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, under whose encouraging pastoral care our community rests.

JOIN THE FISHER SOCIETY AND CLIMB MOUNT SNOWDON FOR GLOBALGIVING'S UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL, SATURDAY 25 JUNE

The Fisher Society's climb to Mount Snowdon, raising money for GlobalGiving's Ukraine Crisis Appeal, has been rescheduled to Saturday 25 June. Please sign up as soon as possible for an exciting daytrip raising much-needed money for humanitarian efforts! Visit fisherhouse.org.uk/snowdon for more details and to register. All are welcome, students and non-students alike – do invite your friends!

Please note that the Walk to Ely has been rescheduled for Saturday 18 June.

SAVE THE DATE: ALL-NIGHT ADORATION BEFORE PENTECOST

The Fisher Society Committee is hosting Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as a Pentecost Vigil, starting from 7.00pm on Saturday 4 June, and concluding at 7.00am on Sunday 5 June. A sign-up sheet is available in the Chapel corridor.

CATHOLIC CAMBRIDGE NOTICES

MAGDALENE COLLEGE SUNG LATIN VESPERS WITH MONKS FROM DOUAI ABBEY, 6.00PM SUNDAY 29 MAY

Join Magdalene College Chapel for a special Sung Latin Vespers with monks from Douai Abbey – a beautiful opportunity to experience the historic college's Benedictine foundations. The service starts at 6.00pm on Sunday 29 May, and is followed by refreshments. The guest preacher is Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's College.

FR DOMINIC WOULD LIKE YOUR VIDEO TESTIMONIES FOR VIEWS FROM THE PEWS: A ZOOM CONFERENCE ON THE LITURGY!

Which do you prefer, Old Rite or New Rite (or both)? Give us your 30-second video testimony (positive reasons only, please) by uploading your testimony at flipgrid.com/7a25695a. We need it by this Sunday 22 May!

Your testimony will help theologians speaking at *View from the Pews: Towards a Theology of Catholic Experiences of the Liturgy*, a Zoom conference on Friday 10 June which Fr Dominic White OP (of Blackfriars, Cambridge) is organising with the Centre for Ecclesial Ethics at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, to help overcome liturgical tensions in the Catholic Church. Full details are available at mbit.cam.ac.uk/avada_portfolio/centre-for-ecclesial-ethics.

SPEAKERS WANTED FOR RADIO MARIA ENGLAND'S JUST LIFE SERIES

Johanna writes: "Radio Maria England are looking for speakers for their *Just Life* programme, in which normal people talk about their work/studies/research or a passion and how it affects people's lives. Literally everyone has a story to tell, if you're a student, researcher, professional...it's a really fun experience! And absolutely no previous experience is needed. Feel free to get in touch with me ([jss84](#)) for more information or if you want to get involved with this programme, or would like to volunteer in a different way with the radio station."

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, MONDAY 25 TO FRIDAY 29 JULY 2022

Knock Pilgrimages invites you to join parishes in the Diocese of East Anglia for a Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, from Monday 25 July to Friday 29 July 2022.

The price is £699 per person sharing, including a flight from Stansted with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, and four nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions are included, with daytrips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, and others. A single supplement is £100.

For more information and to book, please contact Patricia on [01268 762278](tel:01268762278) or [07740 175557](tel:07740175557), or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is fully protected by ATOL T7613.