



Fisher House

**Cambridge University
Catholic Chaplaincy**

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 24 March 2022

Easter Term Week 0 | Divine Mercy Sunday

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

Sunday 24	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OF DIVINE MERCY)		
	9.00am†	Mass (Sung Latin)	6.15pm
	11.00am†	Mass (Sung English)	
Monday 25	1.05pm†	Mass <i>St Mark</i> offered for the repose of the soul of Fr Mark Langham	
Tuesday 26	8.20am 1.05pm	Mass (cancelled) Mass <i>St George</i>	3.30pm – 5.30pm
Wednesday 27	8.20am 1.05pm	Mass (cancelled) Mass	6.30pm
Thursday 28	8.20am 1.05pm	Mass (cancelled) Mass	7.00pm
Friday 29	8.20am 1.05pm 6.30pm	Mass (cancelled) Mass <i>St Catherine of Siena</i> Sung Vespers	8.00pm – 11.15pm
Saturday 30	1.05pm 6.00pm	Mass Vigil Mass (Said English)	
Sunday 1 May	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER		4.30pm – 5.30pm
	9.00am†	Mass (Sung Latin)	
	11.00am†	Mass (Sung English)	

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

We are delighted to welcome back **Fr Richard Finn OP**, of Blackfriars, Oxford, to celebrate our Masses this Sunday 24 April and next Sunday 1 May.

THIS WEEK AT FISHER HOUSE

Thursday 28

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

Friday 29

Sr Ann's Open Office – all students warmly welcome for friendship, tea and homebaked goodies! ([FB](#))

Sung Vespers – a service of thanksgiving at the close of the working day, with psalms and scripture. ([FB](#))

Termcard Pidging Evening – an evening of free pizza, beer, friendship, and excruciating manual labour! Come along to help us to stuff envelopes with termcards to send to colleges!

Opening Night of the Black Swan Bar – Cambridge's most fun and most Catholic bar, serving alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks at prices you won't find elsewhere!

Saturday 30

Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel

Sunday 1

12 noon

Post-Mass Welcome Back Reception

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.

**SAVE THE DATE: FISHER MASS
12 NOON MONDAY 2 MAY AT GREAT ST MARY'S**

REFLECTION: THANK GOD, EASTER LASTS LONGER THAN LENT!

My dear friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen. I do hope that, wherever you have been spending Easter, it has been a blessed and joyful time, and that many of you will have been able to enjoy a relaxing break away from term-time busyness over the last few weeks.

I say 'have been spending' rather than 'spent' because – of course – Easter is not over yet. In the life of the Church, as in the life of the University of Cambridge, Easter names not a day, but a season – and, in the case of the liturgical calendar, it's a season which, thankfully, is longer than the one that immediately precedes it. Lent contains forty days and forty nights, but Eastertide, ending at Pentecost,

numbers fifty. I think there are at least two reasons for this, and we might reflect on both as we approach the beginning of our Easter term.

In the first place, it reminds us that Easter, and what it stands for, is more fundamental to our Christian experience than Lent. Easter is the end, we might say, to which Lent is the means. The celebration of the triumph of Christ over sin and death and destruction is what Lent is preparing us for. As I reflected last term, we talk of giving up – or taking up – things 'for Lent', though it would be more accurate to speak of doing so 'for Easter': we discipline our minds and our bodies during Lent in order that we might come as clear-sighted, humble and open-hearted as possible to share in the joy of

the feasting that follows the fasting. And so, it is appropriate that the feasting lasts longer than the fasting, lest we be left with any misapprehension that the fasting is an end in itself – appropriate, too, because we need to learn how to feast. As Christians, disciples of the One who came that we 'might have life and have it abundantly', who performed his first miracle at a wedding banquet and gave himself to be our food as he sat at supper with his friends, we fast in order to feast.

But that's not, of course, an invitation to mindless gluttony – far from it: if our abstinence before Easter has been authentic, it will have led us to a greater, more reflective appreciation for the good things that we have denied ourselves. We will want to savour

our first mouthfuls of whatever we've been denying ourselves slowly and thankfully, not bolt them down unheedingly. And an authentic observance of Lent will lead, also, to growth in solidarity with all those who suffer, because it will lead us closer to Christ. It will lead, therefore, to growth in compassion and sensitivity towards those whose relationship with food is complex and compromised: those whose hunger will not cease with the end of the liturgical season, for instance; those who struggle to put food on the table; those who live with eating disorders or who support those who do. When we feast, we must never do so oblivious to those who do not, or who cannot, share in our feasting. This, then, is an important way in which our gratitude for the gift of Jesus' resurrection can spill over from our celebrations in church into the living of our daily lives. It's worth taking the time to grow into our Eastertide feasting, that it may be full of charity, imagination, and, above all thanksgiving: this is what the fifty days of Eastertide offers us.

But Eastertide is also longer than Lent because in Eastertide, we are being asked to move into a newly-illuminated landscape, and our eyes need time to become accustomed to the light. In Lent, we're confronted with our own weakness and, yes, sinfulness – and then, in the horrors of the events of Holy Week, we see the consequences of human sin at their starkest and most disturbing. And all of this is depressingly familiar territory. We wrestle with our inadequacies – and so often fail to overcome them, even though we long to do so for the sake of the Lord we love. The innocent are subject to crucifying humiliation at the hands of the mighty, and we're powerless to prevent it.

And, of course, it was no different for the first disciples of Jesus; those who knew themselves to be implicated, through their weakness, in his death; those whose dreams of a future with Jesus seemed so cruelly shattered on the first Good Friday. That is why the gospels give us so many different accounts

of the Lord's appearing, over and over again, to the disciples. Even after they meet him in the upper room on Easter Sunday evening, the disciples return, dejected, to the familiar business of fishing – and are caught unawares by the joy of a lakeside barbecue with the Lord. They like us, needed time to allow their eyes, aching with tears, to open up to a new reality – in which God's love overcomes anxiety, in which the innocent are vindicated, in which death is not the end. They needed to be reassured, not once, but repeatedly, that it is not too good to be true – and so do we. That is why the Church gives us Eastertide: that, in these fifty days, we can begin to allow our hearts to believe a story that we could not possibly have imagined: the story of God's almighty and inconceivable mercy.

Happy Easter, and welcome back!

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

FISHER HOUSE NOTICES

FISHER MASS, 12 NOON MONDAY 2 MAY AT GREAT ST MARY'S

Save the date: our annual Fisher Mass will take place at 12 noon next Monday 2 May, the Early May Bank Holiday, at Great St Mary's, the University Church (Senate House Hill, CB2 3PQ). The Mass will be livestreamed to [fisherhouse.org.uk/live](#), and followed by a reception at Fisher House. Doctors are invited to wear scarlet and all members of the University are invited to wear academic dress.

We are delighted to welcome Fr Anton Webb as chief celebrant and guest preacher. Fr Anton is Parish Priest at St Alban's, Winslow (Bucks), and has extensive experience in prison ministry. Please note that there will be no 1.05pm Mass at Fisher House that Monday.

SR ANN AND FR MATTHEW ARE SICK: NO 8.20AM MASSES THIS WEEK 🙄

Yeh, I know 🙄 Please spare a prayer for their swift convalescence! We hope that Sr Ann will be back in action mid-week, while there will be no 8.20am Mass this week. Please do forgive them if they take slightly longer than usual to reply to your email, and forgive me if we may have reduced opening hours this week.

EASTER TERM 2022 READERS' ROTA

You can now sign up to read at our Sunday Masses at [fisherhouse.org.uk/readers](#). If you would like any training, please get in touch with Sr Ann ([acs92](#)).

ROTA TO HELP AT 1.05PM MASSES

Interested in learning the ins and outs of a sacristy? There's a new sign-up rota on the back wall on the Fisher Room if you're willing to help set up and clear away after 1.05pm Masses. Instructions are provided, or if you would like a quick demo first, get in touch with Matteo ([mb2481](#)).

REQUIEM MASS FOR PRIESTS WHO DIED DURING THE LOCKDOWN, 12.30PM ON SATURDAY 28 MAY AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

A Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm on Saturday 28 May at Westminster Cathedral for priests of the Diocese of Westminster who died during lockdown restrictions on funeral attendance. Fr Mark Langham, our former Chaplain, is one of the nineteen priests named. You are welcome to attend the service in-person, or it will be livestreamed by the Cathedral.

CATHOLIC CAMBRIDGE NOTICES

CATHOLIC WOMEN WRITERS BOOK SERIES

In the English-speaking world, the Catholic Literary Revival is typically associated with the works of men such as G. K. Chesterton, Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene. But in fact, the Revival's most numerous members were women, a great number of whom have been forgotten. A new book series, published by the Catholic University of America Press, brings together some of the prose work of Catholic women from the 19th and 20th centuries, with accessible but scholarly introductions by theologians and literary specialists.

Senior Members of our community have been involved in the production of this book series, which is edited by Bonnie Lander Johnson (Newnham College, Cambridge) and Julia Meszaros (St Patrick's College, Maynooth). The series' first instalment, *The Dry Wood* by Caryl Houselander, has now been published.

LOOKING FOR A ROOM IN CAMBRIDGE DURING THE SUMMER?

Would you like to spend some time in Cambridge during the summer? The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Newnham, Cambridge, is seeking a reliable, proactive, and conscientious person to help us out with part-time warden duties over the summer in exchange for accommodation at a significantly reduced rate. The duties involve being on-site overnight/on-call for some of the week, assisting and welcoming postgraduate residents, and other house-related tasks. (The duties are shared with another Warden so there is flexibility.) We are also looking for two Wardens for the 2022-2023 academic year. These roles come with very nice, quiet accommodation with a beautiful garden at a discounted rate. For more information, please contact Margaret Sallis ([ms2674](#)).

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS STUDENT LEADERS OPPORTUNITY

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ), the leading nationwide forum for Christian-Jewish engagement, is recruiting student leaders for next year, whom they support to establish student-led interfaith initiatives which meet the needs of their universities. More information is available at [ccj.org.uk/campus-leadership](#), or speak to Paul ([pn303](#)) or Anna ([atcw3](#)).

STUDY PARTICIPANTS WANTED: TRAUMA AND PRAYER

A student from the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology is studying the role of Christian prayer as a healing agent in trauma recovery and is looking for participants who have recently experienced a sudden traumatic event and have used Christian prayer, or techniques such as mindfulness or yoga, as resources for living with their situation. If you are interested in participating in this study, please send an email to Sr Conxita at [cg873@student.aru.ac.uk](#).

CAMBRIDGE ECOCHURCH FESTIVAL, 2.00PM TO 9.00PM SATURDAY 30 APRIL AT ST ANDREW'S STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Cambridge Eco Church Festival is a day of talks, worship, and creativity, to inspire all Cambridgeshire to care deeply about God's creation, and to equip us as individuals, as churches, and as a wider community, to express that care in our lives!

Come and join us for a day that will leave you inspired, equipped, and full of hope, from 2.00pm to 9.00pm on Saturday 30 April at St Andrew's Street Baptist Church (St Andrew's Street, CB2 3AR). Register for free at [eventbrite.co.uk/e/cambridge-eco-church-festival-tickets-295382816957](#).