



Fisher House

Cambridge University
Catholic Chaplaincy

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 5 June 2022

Easter Term Week 6 | Pentecost Sunday

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

Sunday 5 June	PENTECOST SUNDAY		
	9.00am†	Mass (Sung Latin)	
	11.00am†	Mass (Sung English)	
Monday 6	1.05pm	Mass	<i>Mary, Mother of the Church</i>
Tuesday 7	8.20am	Mass	
	1.05pm	Mass	
Wednesday 8	8.20am	Mass	<i>St James Berthieu</i>
	1.05pm	Mass	
Thursday 9	8.20am	Mass	<i>Our Lord Jesus Christ</i>
	1.05pm	Mass	<i>the Eternal High Priest</i>
Friday 10	8.20am	Mass	
	1.05pm	Mass	
	6.30pm	Sung Vespers	
Saturday 11	1.05pm	Mass	
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (Said English)	
Sunday 12 June	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY		
	9.00am†	Mass (Sung Latin)	
	11.00am†	Mass (Sung English)	

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

THE PRAYER FOR THE QUEEN to be recited at Sunday Masses this weekend, on the occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee:

℣. O Lord, save Elizabeth, our Queen.

℞. **And hear us on the day we call upon you.**

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.

℞. **And let my cry come before you.**

℣. The Lord be with you.

℞. **And with your spirit.**

℣. Almighty God, we pray,
that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen,
who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm,
may continue to grow in every virtue,
that, imbued with your heavenly grace,
she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil
and, being blessed with your favour
may, with the royal family,
come at last into your presence,
through Christ who is the way, the truth and the life
and who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

℞. **Amen.**

From the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

THIS WEEK AT FISHER HOUSE

Tuesday 7 June

6.00pm – 7.30pm **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in the Chapel, with **Confessions** available from 6.45pm to 7.30pm.

7.30pm **Service of Anointing of the Sick** ([FB](#))

"Among the seven sacraments there is one especially intended to strengthen those who are being tried by illness, the Anointing of the Sick...By the grace of this sacrament, the sick person receives the strength and the gift of uniting themselves more closely to Christ's Passion...Suffering, a consequence of original sin, acquires a new meaning; it becomes a participation in the saving work of Jesus." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1511-21)

Join us in the Chapel at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 June for a Service of Anointing of the Sick, with the opportunity to receive the sacrament if you would like to. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will proceed the service from 6.00pm to 7.30pm, with Confessions from 6.45pm to 7.15pm.

We thought to offer this service after receiving several requests for the sacrament, and you're welcome to come and receive the Sacrament, or simply to come along to support and pray for those receiving it. All of us who have ever attended a healing service before can vouch that it's a moving and powerful sacrament!

Thursday 9 June

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

Friday 10 June

3.30pm – 5.30pm **Sr Ann's Open Office** – all students warmly welcome for friendship, tea and homebaked goodies! ([FB](#))

6.30pm **Sung Vespers** – a service of thanksgiving at the close of the working day, with psalms and scripture. ([FB](#))

7.00pm – 8.00pm **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in the Chapel

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 11 June

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.

On Saturday 11 June, we are delighted to welcome a visiting parish group from St Mary Moorfields, Moorgate (London), led by a Fisher House alumnus. The group will attend the 1.05pm Mass and use the Fisher Room for their lunch and festivities afterwards. Please give them a warm welcome! – and we ask that you use the side-door in the Chapel to access the Library while the Fisher Room is in use.

REFLECTION: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WITH US, JUST AS IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN!

My dear friends,

The end of Easter Term, which is fast approaching, and the end of Eastertide, already upon us, is – like all moments of transition – a time for taking stock of what has been, and for speculation on what might lie ahead. In both cases, we will almost certainly experience a complex and unsettling mix of gratitude, regret, anticipation, and anxiety.

This weekend, we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles. To reflect on it is to be invited to look into a mirror and see all this muddled intensity reflected back to us, but also to invite us to wrestle creatively with it.

Homilies for Pentecost frequently dwell on the dramatic difference the coming of the Spirit makes to the life of the infant Church. The first followers of Jesus are huddled together for spiritual warmth, we might say, as together they attempt to process the extraordinary events of the first Holy Week and Eastertide. But they are impelled outwards, out of the upperroom, and doubtless out of their comfort zone: first into the city which has seen the brutal execution of their Lord and master; and then into all the world, to preach at his command the gospel of healing and forgiveness to all nations.

It is almost as though they are not the same people anymore. Up until this point, they were timorous, confused, and ineffectual; now, they are fearless ambassadors for Christ, his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

It's a compelling before-and-after picture, and no account of Christian origins which does not allow it to make its full impact on us deserves to be taken seriously. That's a challenge for many of us, precisely because the story of Pentecost calls us to leave behind our own comfort zones, when often enough, we'd rather stay safe in the upperroom.

But we have to be wary of taking it out of context, in a way that suggests not merely that the God is doing a new thing in bestowing his Spirit on Our Lady and the Apostles, which he certainly is, but that this new thing has little or no connection with what went before: that it effaces, rather than transfigures, all that leads up to it. That, I think, is *seriously* to misread the text, and to minimise its power to strengthen and console at the turning points of our lives. It can blind us to the ways in which the Spirit has already been with us, even at times when we have been oblivious to this presence, and set us up for quite bruising disappointment as we fail to become the model missionary disciples we long to be under the Spirit's influence.

But if we reflect on all that our Scriptures tell us of the Spirit's work, a slightly different, more complicated but perhaps also more comforting, picture emerges. If we look back into the Old Testament, we see the Spirit there at the dawn of Creation, brooding over the waters of chaos; the Spirit inspiring the prophets; the Spirit also, we are told, energising the architects and interior designers of the Temple of Jerusalem. Human creativity, human compassion and human passion for the truth: all of this is of the Spirit, because in all of this, human beings reflect the image of the creative,

compassionate and passionate God – and the Spirit is God.

And the pages of the New Testament describing life in the Church after the day of Pentecost do not present us with a picture of an uninterrupted trajectory of triumph as the apostles make their way in the world unhindered by either outward opposition or interior weakness. There are, of course, the obvious highpoints: the miracles of deliverance from danger; the huge numbers of conversions. But there are also the low points: the all-too-familiar scandal of Christians disagreeing, publicly and bitterly, that is depicted in the Acts of the Apostles; the wrestling with the conflicting desires of the human heart that is so poignantly, because so simply and so relatably, described by St Paul when he speaks of how he does not do the good that he longs to do. And this, I think, should be encouraging, rather than dispiriting, precisely because it all happens after Pentecost. The Spirit who is God does not refuse to associate with the apostles because of their mixed motives, their failures, even their sinfulness.

So, in our own lives too, we can dare to say that there has never been a time when the Spirit has not been with us. We can also dare to say that there never will be a time when our limitations and frustrations cause the Spirit to abandon us. And that, surely, should both inspire us as we give thanks for what has been and seek to be open to what is to come.

God bless,

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

FISHER HOUSE NOTICES

ICYMI: HABEMUS CAPELLANUS!

As we announced earlier this week, Fr Paul Keane has accepted Bishop John Arnold's invitation to be Chaplain at Fisher House, starting from the next academic year. You can read Sr Ann's announcement in full at fisherhouse.org.uk/post/fr-paul-keane-appointed-chaplain.

JOIN THE ALUMNI MAILING LIST!

Leaving Cambridge this year? You'll be sorely missed – and we sure hope to see you before you go, not least at our Leavers' Mass and Barbeque on Sunday 19 June. If you would like to stay in touch with Fisher House, especially through our annual newsletter, we recommend joining our 'CUCA Friends' mailing list. You can register at fisherhouse.org.uk/cuca-friends.

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE'S RESOLUTION ON THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION

A reminder that the Sunday Obligation returns for all Catholic from this weekend. You can read the resolution of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on the restoration of the Sunday Obligation at www.cbcew.org.uk/spring-plenary-2022-resolution-returning-to-mass-at-pentecost.

CATHOLIC ACCOMMODATION IN CAMBRIDGE

Looking for somewhere to live in Cambridge, searching for housemates, or have a spare room to rent out? To facilitate the matching together of Catholic students and young adults searching for accommodation in Cambridge, we've set up a public padlet and private Facebook group for you to post what you are searching or offering. Visit fisherhouse.org.uk/catholic-accommodation-cambridge.

YOUR VOICE IN FISHER HOUSE'S ANNUAL NEWSLETTER!

Over the next few months, two wonderful members of our community, Guy and Jane, are generously reprising their fantastic work as editors for Fisher House's annual newsletter, which looks back on our community in the previous academic year for our friends and alumni and the world to see!

Can you spare a few words to write about what Fisher House has meant to you this year/during your time in Cambridge? Fill in our form at tinyurl.com/fhnewsletter22. Guy and Jane are also hoping to commission a short article (only a couple of paragraphs or so!) on a Fisher House student's perspective of teaching during the pandemic, to accompany one written by a teaching member of our community. Get in touch with Matteo ([mb2481](#)) if you might be interested in contributing!

FISHER MASS HOMILY NOW REPUBLISHED ON OUR BLOG

'The role of the preacher is no less important now than it was in the past. A good sermon, yes can inspire us, but a good sermon above all kindles the flame within us for the love of Christ; it makes us happy and rejoice for all the things he has done and still does for us in our lives.'

Did you miss Fr Anton Webb's homily at this year's Fisher Mass? Never fear – our blog has you covered! You can now rewatch and reread Fr Anton's homily, on the importance of the sermon and clerical standards, at fisherhouse.org.uk/post/fisher-mass-homily-2022.