



# Fisher House

## Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy

# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 8 May 2022

Easter Term Week 2 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

Sunday 8 May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.00am†	Mass (Sung Latin)
	11.00am†	Mass (Sung English)
Monday 9	1.05pm	Mass
	6.00pmt	Pontifical Mass for Fisher House Confirmations
Tuesday 10	8.20am	Mass
	1.05pm	Mass
Wednesday 11	8.20am	Mass
	1.05pm	Mass
Thursday 12	8.20am	Mass
	1.05pm	Mass
Friday 13	8.20am	Mass (cancelled)
	12.30pm	Rosary
	1.05pm	Mass
	6.30pm	Sung Vespers
Saturday 14	1.05pm	Mass St Matthias
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (Said English)
Sunday 15 May	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.00am†	Mass (Sung Latin)
	11.00am†	Mass (Sung English)

<sup>†</sup> Also livestreamed to [fisherhouse.org.uk/live](http://fisherhouse.org.uk/live).

We are delighted to welcome **Fr Paul Keane**, Vice-Rector of St Mary's College, Oscott, to celebrate our 11.00am Mass this Sunday 8 May. Sr Ann and Matteo encourage you to stay after the Mass for teas and coffees in the Fisher Room, to welcome Fr Paul and offer him the chance to meet us all!

## THIS WEEK AT FISHER HOUSE

Monday 9 May

7.00pm **LGBTQ Faith-Sharing Group**

Fr Matthew writes: "With the blessing of Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, under whose encouraging pastoral care our community remains, an LGBTQ faith-sharing group will begin meeting this term at 7.00pm on Monday 9 May in the Great Chamber. Come to share fellowship, pray with scripture, and reflect on your faith journey in a supportive and welcoming environment. LGBTQ undergraduate and postgraduate students are especially invited to attend, but all are welcome. Please contact me ([mjj253](#)) or Jason ([jec239](#)) for more information. Future meetings TBD."

Tuesday 10 May

6.00pm – 6.45pm **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in the Chapel

7.00pm – 9.15pm **Apologia: Discovering Your Charism** with John Stayne ([FB](#))

Inspired by our timely approach to Pentecost in the Church's year, the Fisher Society has elected for this term's Apologias (of which there are four, one for every Tuesday in May) to explore the theme of 'Mission: Empowered by the Holy Spirit'.

In this second instalment, we are delighted to welcome John Stayne, PhD Candidate at Durham University, who will explore the powerful gifts with which we are freely endowed to communicate and live the Good News – what the Church calls 'charisms' – and how we can discover and apply them in our lives.

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 to 10.30pm – Cambridge's most fun and most Catholic bar, serving alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks at prices you won't find elsewhere!

John Stayne is a PhD Candidate and Teaching Assistant in the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University. His research specialises in the role of the charismatic gifts in Catholic ecclesiology.

Thursday 12 May

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

**Abraham • Ibrahim: Sacrifice and God's Gifts – An Interfaith Conference** ([FB](#))

We're delighted to welcome a guest panel of speakers from across faith communities in Cambridge, who will invite us to explore the shared importance of Abraham to the Abrahamic religions. The panel's discussion will be followed by a reception, which we hope will prove a welcome opportunity for encounter and new friendships.

Our speakers are: **Rabbi Elazar Symon** of Cambridge Jewish Chaplaincy; **Hafiz Imam Zakarya Gangat** of Cambridge Central Mosque; **Fr Andrew Day** of Great St Mary's, the University Church; and, last but not least, our very own **Sr Ann Swales OP**. For more details, please contact Paul ([pn303](#)).

Friday 13 May

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 **Exploring Our Faith: Finding True Freedom** ([FB](#))

What do Catholics believe about moral actions and conscience? Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Are there any limits to our freedom? How do we discover our true identity?

This Friday, we invite you to discover something new about your faith by bringing it back to the very basics, in Fisher House's first(?) trial of Sycamore, a popular catechetical film series directed by Fr Stephen Wang, formerly Chaplain at Newman House in London. Join us for some cake, short films, and group discussions in the Fisher Room, in a friendly and welcoming environment! All are very welcome, especially if you haven't been to Fisher House before!

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!

*Continued on the next page...*

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**MASS AT TRINITY COLLEGE CHAPEL**  
**6.00PM MONDAY 16 MAY**  
(no 1.05pm Mass at Fisher House)

**Saturday 14 May**

Afternoon (see below for timings!) **Fisher-More Cup** at Homerton Playing Fields, Trumpington (CB2 8PX; [FB](#))

Come and watch our all-conquering Dolphins humiliate the Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy on the football pitch, and enjoy a relaxed get-together for all players and spectators, including – if you wish – people from the Other Place.

We're still confirming the schedule, but it looks like we're due for a kickoff around 3.00pm at Homerton Playing Fields (CB2 8PX), preceded or followed by a reception. The confirmed schedule will soon be posted to [our Facebook group](#), or you can get in touch later in the week! For more information, please contact Julia ([jw735](#)).

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 the evening of Monday 9 May, the Fisher Room will be closed for a reception for those who have been confirmed. When the Fisher Room is closed, please access the Library via the Chapel side-door.

## REFLECTION: JESUS KNOWS YOU, SO HE KNOWS WHOM YOU ARE MEANT TO BE!

My dear friends,

Each year at this point in Eastertide, the Church invites us to listen to texts in which Jesus speaks of knowing his disciples as sheep, and calls himself both the door of the sheepfold and the shepherd who guards it. The choice of these gospel readings has given this coming Sunday its traditional nickname of 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. For this reason, this Sunday has become the conventional time for preaching on the theme of *vocation*, as we ask the Lord to inspire in more hearts compassion for the many in our world who are like sheep without a shepherd; and to inspire, too, the courage to dare to believe in a call to feed, and guide and guard – for us to be, in short, a pastor, a shepherd.

There are many questions that could be asked here. What is the relationship between the whispered invitation that some within our community discern to explore the possibility of ordination – of becoming a pastor in that most obvious, if metaphorical sense – and God's call to all of his people, without exception, to allow ourselves to be shaped ever more firmly into the likeness of the one who called himself the shepherd – the one who is not only prophet and king, but also priest? How can I, here and now, in Cambridge, be a shepherd; how can I be a prophet, priest and king, as my baptism proclaims me to be? If you're a shepherd, can you simultaneously be a sheep? Who wants to be a sheep anyway?

These questions are rightly sensitive, even controversial, because they go right to the heart of who we are, and who God wants us to be. Finding the answers to these questions is, and should be, a matter of urgent, and sometimes frankly painful, importance to us.

How might this year's Good Shepherd gospels help us to answer these questions? First, as this year's gospel makes clear, it is of crucial importance that the shepherd does know the sheep. I think we are supposed to see that word "know" invested with quite a lot of the emotional weight it so often has in our Scriptures: this is not cursory acquaintance, but something far more profound, even intimate; it is the knowledge which is not merely satisfaction of intellectual curiosity, but the fulfilment of desire.

If we lay alongside this gospel the account of the call of the apostles, we can perhaps see this more clearly. We read that, after a vigil of mountaintop prayer to his Father, Jesus called those whom "he wanted" to be with him. He didn't call the most prominently gifted and talented; nor the religiously most sophisticated or elite-educated; nor those respectably emotionally continent or unwaveringly impervious to doubt and fear. Rather, the list includes Peter, who denies Jesus; Judas, who betrays him; and several of whom we know next to nothing beyond their names – perhaps because there was next to nothing to know. And yet these – all of these

– were the ones the Lord wanted, the ones he desired, the ones he knew.

This should be, I think, a consolation to all of us as we seek to know the Lord's will for our lives. If we are ever tempted to wonder what the Lord could possibly want with us, and therefore tempted to doubt that he could possibly want *anything* from us, still less that he *could* want us, or want us to make a total gift of ourselves to him, here is the beginning of an answer. He doesn't only want those who are squeaky-clean in their allegiance to him, or exclusively those who are 'impressive' in the ways of the world. Perhaps we should not be surprised that the one who tells us that he came not for the healthy but for the sick overturns our expectations so healingly and yet so disturbingly in this way, assuring us that, just as no one is beyond the reach of his mercy, so no one is lacking in the potential to be moulded by the Father's embrace into the likeness of his Son – which is what, fundamentally, all Christian vocation is. If we are doubtful or confused about what shape our calling takes, Jesus is not. He knows us, and he will show us, too, as we listen to him, who, in him, we really are.

God bless,

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

## FISHER HOUSE NOTICES

### 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](https://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!

### NO 8.20AM MASS THIS COMING FRIDAY 13 MAY

There will be no 8.20am Mass on Friday 13 May, because Fr Matthew is away next weekend. Sorry!

## EXTERNAL VACANCIES

### JOURNALIST, CARMELITE PRIORY OF ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, BOARS HILL, OXFORD

The Carmelite Priory of St John of the Cross at Boars Hill, Oxford, is seeking a full-time journalist. Remote working is possible, with some travel to Boars Hill needed on occasion, and the job is paid at a competitive remuneration depending on skills and experience. The deadline to apply is midnight on Tuesday 31 May 2022, or once enough suitable applications are received. For more information or to apply, please visit [carmelite.uk.net/jobvacancies](#).

### DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS SERVICE, DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA

The Diocese of East Anglia seeks to appoint a talented Deputy Director to join our small and hardworking Schools' Services team. The Deputy Director will work closely with the Diocesan Schools' Commission and the Schools' Service team to support the strategic development, promotion and effectiveness of Catholic education in the Diocese. The position is paid at £56,000 to £62,000, and based at the Diocesan Offices at Poringland, Norwich. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Tuesday 17 May 2022. For more details and to apply, please visit [www.rcdea.org.uk/vacancies/deputy-director-of-schools-service](#).