



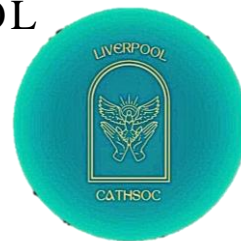
# CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITIES

The University Church of St Philip Neri Church ~ "The Oratory Church"

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**30th March 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)**



"This, your brother, was dead, and has come back to life, was lost, and is found"

Luke 15:32

*Events for Students and University Members:*

## Masses & Services This Week:

**Monday:** 8.15 Mass at the [Missionaries of Charity](#) house (55 Seel St) – students always welcome!

**Tuesday:** Mass 5.30pm

**Wednesday:** Lunchtime prayer at Faith Express, 1pm; Mass 5.30pm

**Thursday:** **12.30 Mass** 5.30pm: Stations of the Cross \*

**Sunday:** Confessions 5.15-5.30pm; Mass 6pm

\*events in the chaplaincy; enter via the Blackburne Place entrance

**Faith Express:** Wednesday lunchtime: Join us for lunch (bring your own!) and a reflection on the Sunday Gospel, preceded by Prayer during the Day. 1pm.

The **last Sunday Mass** of term will be on Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>. Mass will resume on **Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>**... which is the date on which the Holy Father will canonise **Blessed Carlo Acutis**. Speaking of which, we will be placing an icon of Blessed Carlo in the chaplaincy 'chapel', and it will then be known as the "Carlo Acutis Room". The icon will be blessed on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April



## St Cuthbert's Way Pilgrimage

**Meeting: Wednesday at 6pm in the chaplaincy**

**We should have finalised details of travel, accommodation & costs and application forms for the 14 places which will be available to students.**

**Tuesday evening after Mass - Film night:**

**"The Passion of the Christ"**

## Staff & PhD group meets this Wednesday

at 6pm in the Chaplaincy. We continue our reading and discussion of Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe & Łukasz Poko's book "Questioning God" See Fr Neil for further details.

**As you can see, there is Mass at 12.30pm on Thursday. This is because we are hosting a meeting of university chaplains from the NW of England. We normally meet twice a year, in different locations. Mass will be in the chaplaincy and is open to all.**

Philip Neri House – accommodation for 2025/26: would those who have expressed an interest in staying please arrange to see Fr Neil to discuss and make arrangements. There is one room still available.



*Please take this newsletter away with you!*

# Looking back...

## looking forward...

The end of term is fast approaching. Terms seem to go by faster and faster – particularly when you are my age! When we look back over the past 3 months, we have done a great deal at the chaplaincy. There is much to celebrate.

Of course one of the standout events was our retreat at Formby which many of you participated in. This always has such a powerful effect for people individually, in terms of boosting their enthusiasm for spiritual things, inspired by the talks we had from the Sisters. But also in terms of bonding the chaplaincy community.

We have had a number of speakers – Chris Reynolds from the Seafarers charity, Stella Maris, Father Taras on the Jesus Prayer, Canon Luiz Ruscillo on Scripture, Dr Paige dePolo on Science and Religion, and yours truly on Psychology and Catholicism. And of course we have watched a couple of videos from Bishop Robert Barron on the 'Pivotal Players' of the Catholic Church – with more to come! On Tuesday evenings, the resident community have hosted 'House Prayer and Fellowship', and on other Tuesdays we have had a film night, Rosary making, and attended the celebration of the 'Miracle of Jack Traynor' at the Cathedral. We also had a visit from the Catholic chaplaincy at Manchester.

The Staff and PhD group has been meeting every fortnight. They are currently using the book "Questioning God" by Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe and Fr Łukasz Popku as the basis of their discussion.

I also want to mention those Tuesdays when we have just had 'hang out' time at the chaplaincy, with card or board games. Do you remember what Chris Reynolds said a few weeks ago when he said that what we do here at the chaplaincy - just having space and time to be together, to socialise – a place where people can just 'be themselves' without pressure to conform, this is one of the most important things that we provide, and it is, as Chris said, very counter-cultural. We hear a lot these days about mental health issues among young people. The influence of social media is often mentioned, and I am sure this is a factor, but I think the society we have created provides fewer places when people can just be together, or 'hang out'. Many community youth centres have fallen victim to funding cuts. But what is the long term cost of not providing resources for young people, where they can learn to be together?

Thursdays brings, as well as theological input, food! Sharing food together, is so important for any community. The word 'companion' means 'one you share bread with'.

Of course another very important activity this term has been the 'Journey in Faith' which will culminate in May with the conferral of the Sacrament of

Confirmation on Joshua and Lorenzo, and also they will make their First Holy Communion. Already, we have people asking to take part in the next 'Journey in Faith' process in the next academic year.

Faith Exploration is fundamental to what we do here at the chaplaincy, and in this year, based on the input we received from you last term, we have been focussing very much on scripture. As well as House Prayer and Fellowship, which is based on the daily Mass readings, we also have Wednesday lunchtimes at Faith Express, where, after the short 'Prayer during the Day', we reflect on the forthcoming Sunday Gospel.

And of course, we have liturgy! The Mass, Adoration on Thursdays, Night Prayer, Prayer during the Day, Confession. I mention these last not because they are less important, but because in many ways they are the pinnacle of what we do – or as the Vatican II document puts it, the 'source and summit' of the Church life.

Mass and liturgy is what we celebrate. It is a response to what God has done for us. It depends on us knowing our faith – at least in part – and being willing to be a community. It seems significant to me that our numbers are up this year, both in terms of Sunday and weekday Mass. I think this is saying something. Of course, they 60 or so of us who come to Sunday Mass are just a 'drop in the ocean' when we think that between our 2 universities we have around 60 000 students. Of course many are not Catholic, and many other who are have found other churches where they go to Mass – but we must remember that we are, as St Paul says in our second reading, "ambassadors for Christ" (2Cor 5:20); a leaven in society.

Next term will be very short, given that Easter is so late. But there is more to come! Among other things, we will have a presentation by Fr Matthew Nunes on 'synodality', and on the Sacred Heart. We hope to spend a day walking part of the jubilee pilgrimage route in our own Archdiocese, and we have the celebration of Confirmation and First Holy Communion to look forward to. And of course, the St Cuthbert's Way pilgrimage in June, which will be a first!!

We have one more Sunday Mass next Sunday, before the Easter vacation but I know many of you will not be here, so I wish you all now a very peaceful vacation, and blessed celebration of Passiontide and Easter. And, thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to make our chaplaincy the place it is!

God bless,

*Fr Neil*