



# CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITIES

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

30 Catharine Street L8 7NL Tel: 0151-709 3858

Chaplain: Fr Neil Ritchie

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 [Liverpool CathChap Facebook Page](#)  [liverpoolcathsoc](#)



**1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**



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[n.ritchie@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:n.ritchie@rcaol.org.uk). To contact Hana, use

[h.koubkova@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:h.koubkova@rcaol.org.uk)

Events for Students and University Members:

## Masses & Services This Week:

**Monday:** No Mass at the MC Convent this week

**Tuesday:** 8.00am Morning Prayer followed by breakfast\*  
6.00pm Mass\*

**Wednesday:** 12.30pm Mass at Faith Express

**Thursday** Mass Adoration 5.30pm, followed by "£1 supper"  
\*events in the chaplaincy; Blackburne Place entrance

**Sunday: Mass 6pm**

## welcome BBQ

**TODAY, after 6pm Mass, we have  
our start-of-term BBQ—  
with food and drink for  
all!**



*Welcome!*

Whether you are here for the first time, or returning for another year, we are delighted to see you!

Our Chaplaincy is a place of welcome for students and staff alike of UoL, LJMU and LIPA. Along with CathSoc, We have a very full term planned. In addition to the regular weekly events listed above, there are many other opportunities to meet and socialise and explore the Catholic Faith. Some events (marked here with an \*) happen here at the chaplaincy, others on UoL campus. The weekday chaplaincy entrance is at the back of church, on Blackburne Place, through the wooden gates.

Catholic Society ("CathSoc") welcome evening on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October,

starting in the Cambridge Pub on Mulberry St at 7pm, later moving to the chaplaincy— Membership of CathSoc is open to all students of UoL, LIPA and LJMU – if you haven't already signed up, please do!

**Staff & PhD Group:** Will be re-starting for the year on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. We meet every other Wednesday during university term time for a fellowship, prayer and faith-based discussion. Open to all university staff and doctoral students.



**Weekly Collection & other donations, you can pay online at:**

[philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com](http://philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com)

Thank you so much for your contributions!

We need you! There are many ways you can support our Masses in our beautiful church – we need readers, servers, musicians, and eucharistic ministers (we can train you and commission you) Please – don't hang back: let us know what you can do, or would be willing to try!! See Fr Neil or Hana

On **Thursday evening** it was lovely to have 13 of us for burritos, after our 30 minutes of shared prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We have a couple of visitors who will be joining us this term – **Father Sean Reilly** is the Chancellor (newly appointed!) of the Archdiocese, and a Canon Lawyer – we look forward to his talk on what Canon Law is, and why it is important. In November, local representatives of the charity **Mary's Meals** will be joining us for a Thursday evening to talk about their fantastic charity, which sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education



Because **October is the Month of Mary**, on Thursday evenings during adoration, after the 15 minutes of silent prayer, we will be praying the Rosary, in place of our usual evening prayer.

**Please note:** all chaplaincy events are open to university members who are 18 yrs of age or older. If you are under 17 at the moment, please make yourself known to Fr Neil or to Hana.

# New Season

Take a breath, a leap of faith and settle in

Chaplaincy Assistant Hana offers the following reflection.....



Are you moving to Liverpool for the first time? Or coming back? Or live in Liverpool? Either way, these days mark a new beginning – new academic year, new room to make your home in, new housemates, new part-time job, new *\*insert your own\**.

You may find all this very exciting or quite daunting. Or both at the same time.

For me this time has been about facing the unknown filled with great anticipation too. Last month, I started my part-time appointment as the chaplaincy assistant for this academic year and, although I moved to Liverpool 7 years ago and lived in the chaplaincy house in my third year, this moment of my life is full of newness. Over the last few weeks, I have been settling into my new weekly work pattern, learning new skills, getting used to the way around the chaplaincy, trying to write this reflection, and I have noticed that this whole process takes a considerable deal of my energy. I have been through many new beginnings but for the first time, I have been properly aware of it and I have decided to be merciful towards myself and allow the time needed to adjust (it also might be simply down to the fact that I'm 'getting old' haha). There are some practical and spiritual ways which I have found helpful on this journey so I will share a few here with a hope that some of them might work for you during this transition period too.

On the daily practical side of things, I have created pillars throughout the day which is very grounding. For example, each day to wake up and go to bed at the same/very similar time while getting enough sleep, to have set meal times, no skipping of meals and to have set prayer times. My favourite tip is to make your bed right away when getting out of the bed – it only takes a few seconds and it gives a sense of achievement first thing in the morning even if you fail to wake up with your first alarm! On a weekly basis, I make sure there is a time to rest, do something I enjoy and to socialise. Even though I don't do the daily routine perfectly

when in the process of adjusting I remember the words of Franciscan friars 'poco a poco, little by little, step by step'. After all, there are new graces available every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23).

The experience of the multitude of emotions when settling in (and of the student life in general) can be very challenging but it is also an opportunity and invitation to grow in faith and to come closer to Jesus. Does it sound a bit burden-some? I'd say the opposite is true (Matthew 11:28-30) and simplicity is the key. Short, honest prayers throughout the day are very powerful. For example, 'Thank you, Jesus' when something good happens or 'Jesus, I trust in You' when there is a difficulty.

Another source of comfort and encouragement is the Bible. I like to memorise or write down verses through which God is speaking to me in the season. It is always good to remember that God is faithful and that He keeps His promises (Psalm 145), that we don't have to worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:25-34). Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and speak through the scripture to you.

The great thing about the Church is that we are a part of a large family. We have brothers and sisters in Christ who are already in Heaven so, why not to become friends with the Saints! There are so many of them, ready to assist us and to intercede for us. The girl by my side now is St Joan of Arc.

Last but not least, today is the 1<sup>st</sup> October which brings us to the month of Mary. Whether you already have a wonderful relationship with Mary or not at all, I would encourage you to ask Jesus to show you how to love Mary just as He loves her. I believe this will help you to allow her to be your heavenly mother who is always with you, who is strong and gentle, who always look out for her children to keep them safe and to lead them to her son, Jesus.

So, all in all, I hope this new season will be fruitful and source of growth for you. Also, I hope that you will find your place here in the chaplaincy, a place for your regular prayer time, a place to meet with friends, a place to find support and fellowship, a place you can call 'home from home'. And, remember, you are not alone, reach out if you need to talk.

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