



# 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](#)



**24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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



Email addresses: [unichap@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:unichap@rcaol.org.uk) is a general address. If you want to contact Fr Neil privately, use: [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:** Mass at the MC Convent, 55 Seel St, 8.15am

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

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

**Thursday** Mass Adoration 6.00pm, followed by "£1 supper"

\*events in the chaplaincy; Blackburne Place entrance

**Sunday: Mass 11am**

# 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.

On **Tuesday Mornings**, start the day with Morning Prayer at 8am, followed by a shared breakfast.\* At 6pm, there is Mass\*, and usually CathSoc have an event planned for the evening

On

**Wednesdays**, Mass is celebrated at Faith Express, the UoL Chaplaincy Office, which is located behind the Hart Building (opposite Starbucks & the Guild) and at the rear of the Foundation Building.

On **Thursdays** at 5.30pm we gather in the chaplaincy weekday chapel for 30 minutes of prayer, before the Blessed Sacrament, partly in silence, and partly shared prayer, we then have a shared meal together, for which we ask a contribution of £1.\*

The student-led **Catholic Society** ('CathSoc') has a welcome event planned many plans for the term, starting with a **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!

## welcome BBQ

**Next Sunday, after 6pm Mass, we have our start-of-term – with food and drink for all!**

**Staff & PhD Group:** Will be re-starting for the year in October. 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:**

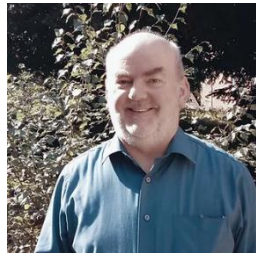
[philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com](http://philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com)

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

# Introducing Ourselves!

**Hello all – my name is Father Neil, or just Neil if you prefer.** I am a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, and have been chaplain here at the universities for almost 7 years.



I was a student in Liverpool 40 years ago, at a college which was long ago absorbed into what is now LJMU. I was originally born in Aberdeen, and was brought up there, and also for a few years in Caithness (the county that has John O’Groats in it!). I graduated in 1985, in Psychology with Education Studies.

In 1983 I had been received into the Catholic Church, along with several other students, in the crypt of the cathedral – we had prepared for this moment at the Catholic Chaplaincy. In those days it was located in what is now the Hart building, opposite the Guild. I consider my Catholic faith and the relationship it opened up for me with Jesus to be the greatest gift of my life – as well as a set of beliefs it gave me a value system and made me part of a wonderful family. It gave me, in other words, a foundation for my life, which I cannot now imagine life without.

In 1986 I began training to be a priest. I spent 2 years at the English seminary in Spain (despite being a Scotsman!) and 4 years at Ushaw College, Durham, and was ordained in 1992 at St Mary’s, Lowe House, St Helen’s. After ordination, I spent 14 years working in various parishes around the Archdiocese. During this time I completed a Diploma in Counselling at the University of Salford. In 2006 I was given the opportunity to study for a Licentiate in Theology at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. After that I taught Moral Theology at the same seminary near Durham (Ushaw College) where I’d been a student 20 years before! When Ushaw college closed in 2011, I was invited to join the clinical staff of the St Luke’s Centre in Manchester, which offers psychological services to the Catholic Church in the UK and Ireland.

In 2016, Archbishop McMahon asked if I might be interested in becoming university chaplain here in Liverpool, and I didn’t hesitate to say yes! Its been a great privilege to serve the university communities. These years have flown by, and I have learned a great deal, not just about chaplaincy in higher education, but about ministry and priesthood in general.

Apart from my ministry in the university communities, I still undertake some psychological assessment work and some therapeutic work. I’m also a member of fraternity of priests linked with the Dominican order, and we meet several times a year. I also have a long-standing passion for flying and the world of aviation – I was lucky enough to be able to get my private pilot’s license in 2014 – I love virtual flying too! I also enjoy walking, reading, and films.

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**Chaplaincy Assistant Hana Koubková.** Hana was born and raised in Žďár nad Sázavou, a town in the Czech Republic. She spent four years at a boarding school in Jihlava-Helenin studying Interior Design. Although a cradle

Catholic, whilst at the collage, Hana encountered the living God.



In 2016, she moved to Liverpool to study BA in architecture at the University of Liverpool. During this time, she was very active in CathSoc and the chaplaincy life and she became the CathSoc president as well as the chaplaincy house resident in her third year. Hana has worked in ArCHIAM research centre based at the School of Architecture

at the University of Liverpool and graduated with Master of Architecture in 2022. Apart from the chaplaincy, Hana works as a Part II Architectural Assistant at the university and aspires to get registered as an architect. She would like to specialise in sacred architecture and to revive the understanding of it within the Church. Also, Hana is one of the team leaders for New Dawn in the Church, annual Catholic pilgrimage in Walsingham.

In her free time, Hana enjoys all things creative and most of all loves spending quality time with her friends and family. Music is an important part of her life, she plays the piano and guitar and praise and worship and newly discovered interest in Gregorian chant form an essential part of her prayer time.

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**Sr. Rachel Duffy** has been a member of the chaplaincy team since 2011-12. She was born and grew up in Preston, Lancashire. Soon after leaving school, she joined the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus ([www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)) and after the first profession came to Liverpool in 1970 and studied English Language and Literature in Liverpool University. She taught English at secondary school level for eleven years, in Salford and Hertfordshire. The next three years were spent in spiritual renewal, theological study and twelve months apprenticeship in Craighead Jesuit Retreat and Conference Centre near Glasgow.



From 1988 – 2003 she was in Manila in the Philippines, supporting the formation of young religious sisters, working with basic Christian communities, youth groups, volunteer catechists and a scholarship program for children from dumpsite scavenger families; and after a sabbatical year in California she spent a further seven years in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, involved in religious formation and once again doing some formal teaching, this time in the English Language department of Sanata Dharma Jesuit University. She came back to the UK at the end of 2011 and was invited to volunteer in the chaplaincy.

It continues to be a privilege to welcome all the amazing people who come through the doors of our beautiful chaplaincy and to share, in however small a way, in our common search for whatever is deepest, truest and best in life, in the light of our most precious gift, our faith, and our calling to live, love and serve in union with Jesus Christ.