



CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITIES

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

30 Catharine Street L8 7NL

Chaplain: Fr Neil Ritchie Tel: 0151-709 3858

www.cathchap.org.uk unichap@rcaol.org.uk

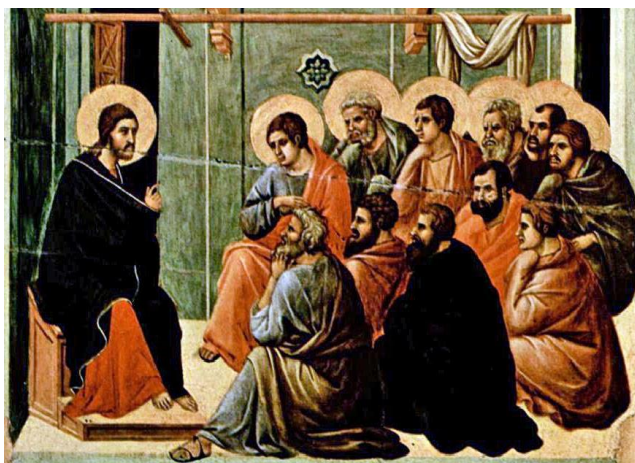


Catholic Chaplaincy to the Liverpool Universities

University members can join the [Liverpool CathChap Facebook Page](#)

Sunday 15th May 2022

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide (Year C)



"Love one another, as I have loved you.. (Jn 13:34)"

Events for Students and University Members:

Tuesday Evening Mass at 5.30pm,

followed by our simple shared meal.

There is no Mass on Wednesday...as Fr Neil will be celebrating mid-day Mass at the Blessed Sacrament Shrine

Thursday Evening:

INTERFAITH FOOTBALL MATCH



Thursday 19th May, Sefton Park at 6pm (meet on Croxteth Drive at Sefton Park Cricket Club, opposite Liverpool Archdiocesan Office building)

There will be food and refreshments available and a chance for any pundit analysis and discussion after the match about 7pm – 8pm in the Jewish Society Centre, close by at 101 Ullet Rd.

No great skill required, just enthusiasm and willingness to participate within a lighthearted framework and approach.

As it's not being played on a proper football pitch, it's more of a 'jumpers for goals' setting, so not necessary to have any kit, but maybe some appropriate clothing for running around for a bit! As well as being an Interfaith and mixed gender match, the sides should represent this accordingly.

Hope to see you there!



Bishop Tom Neylon

will be joining us for Mass next **Sunday 22nd May at 11am**...he will be performing the Baptisms and Confirmations of the 5 students who were enrolled 2 weeks ago. Please pray for them!

From Sunday 22nd May, Sunday Mass will be at 11am, until the end of June, when we will end Sunday Mass for the Summer break. Sunday Mass will resume in September at 6pm.

SVP Meeting Wednesday 18th May at 7pm



Our next SVP meeting will take place on **Wednesday 18th**

(deferred from the 4th) The SVP group have been involved in

helping the Missionaries of Charity

Sisters at Seel Street in their Soup Kitchen, and we have considered various other opportunities...this will be our last meeting of the year.



End of Year BBQ!!

...in the chaplaincy garden - 12 noon, Saturday 28th May. A great way to mark the end of

the academic year!! Each year our end of year BBQ was the highlight of the summer term. This will be our first one for 3 years!! Please bring your own drinks / desserts. Can you help (set up, serve, tidy up)? Please let Fr Neil or Lawrence know.



‘Presence of the Lord’

A reflection by Chaplaincy Assistant
Lawrence

The first song recorded for public release by Eric Clapton was called “Presence of the Lord”- and was written when he left the famous supergroup Cream and formed another band Blind Faith in 1969. There is a line in the song that goes, ‘I have finally found a place to live in the Presence of the Lord’. Ironically, during the subsequent decade or two, he was ravaged by addictions, to both drugs and alcohol. In the 90’s, however, he managed to rid himself of his demons and formed rehabilitation centres for drug and alcohol abuse in the Caribbean, mainly in Jamaica, where he also happened to have a home. Although not alleged to any recognized formal religious order, church, or dogma...he nevertheless said that the song was basically ‘a song of gratitude, to thank God for everything in his life’.

When St. Peter, after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost recites in the Acts, “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out...that times of refreshing may come from the Presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19-20), he is basically saying that by turning away from the Presence of the Lord will lead to alienation, disconnection, sin and our ultimate spiritual downfall – unless we change and return to God.

In the Old Testament book of Genesis, when Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree of knowledge, they became painfully aware of their sin and rebellion to God. “Then the eyes of both were opened” ...and goes on to say, “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Presence of the Lord.” (Genesis 3:7-8). Our sins, and the guilt of sin can often make us want to hide away, rather like Adam and Eve – aware and ashamed of doing wrong and having offended God. When we don’t have boundaries or break through them ourselves in search of meaning or fulfilment, we often feel disconnected or alienated from the Presence of the Lord. And yet God asks Adam and Eve, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9) a question that in stillness and quiet reflection, we would do well to ask ourselves perhaps? Our own lives could be likened to a massive garden, with all sorts of trees – some very tempting and alluring as they distract and turn us away from God’s Presence who is ‘walking’ through our own individual gardens, offering His Holy Spirit to prompt and lead us back to unity, reconnection, and reconciliation.



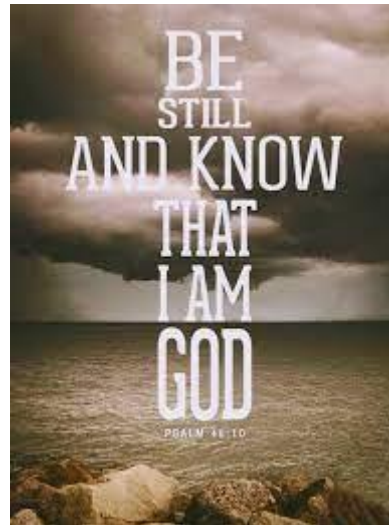
In St. John’s Gospel, Jesus tells us that. “If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments, and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever – the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive,

because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:14-17). He goes on to say, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you...and you will know that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, and I in you”. (John 14:18-20).

This passage is a great exponent of the Holy Trinity, in Jesus saying that He and God the Father are one, and together with His Holy Spirit, lives within us. And again, right at the end of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells us, “I am with you always, to the end of the age”. (Matthew 28:19-20)

And just as God came ‘walking’ in the garden seeking out Adam and Eve and asking, ‘Where are you?’.... the Gospels too testify to Jesus’ teaching this similar invitation to be in the Presence of the Lord. (The father watching out for the return of his Prodigal Son, the parable of the Lost Sheep) – and in Luke’s account again, Jesus states, “For the Son of Man has come to seek out and to save that which was lost”. (Luke 19:10). And St. John quotes Jesus saying, “But an hour is coming, and now is when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and Truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers”. (John 4:23)

If we try to live obediently to God’s commands, and strive to make habitual time in the day to.....” Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10) in the Presence of the Lord, then we are set free from our distractions, temptations and addictions – which are invariably self-imposed; and, in knowing where the boundaries are, perhaps we can (in relation to the constraints and limitations) assimilate our position when asked the question...’Where are you?’. It might therefore be claimed that the Spirit of Truth is being in the Presence of the Lord God – and that Truth is ultimately the knowledge and awareness of what is called ‘Right’. To turn away from this Presence may then also be claimed to be a Lie, and therefore being aware of ‘Wrong’ – rather like Adam and Eve’s painful realisation...and the devil’s disguise as a serpent subsequently bore witness to such deception.



2:21)

When St. Peter amazed the crowds in the early Acts of the Apostles, he claimed that all the saving works or miracles performed by the apostles could only be undertaken through the workings of God’s Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name, and in the Presence of the Lord. “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the lord shall be saved”. (Acts

Perhaps, like Eric Clapton, we should finally find a way to live in the Presence of the Lord and have a song of gratitude in our hearts for everything God has given us.... (instead of, like Adam, looking beyond the boundaries for something more) that are placed there within the teachings of Jesus and His Holy Church, for the benefit and salvation of our souls.