



CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITIES

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

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19th November 2023

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



The Parable of the Talents

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If you want to contact Fr Neil privately, use:

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Events for Students and University Members:

Masses & Services This Week:

Monday: 8.15am Mass at the MC Convent (55 Seel St)

Tuesday: 8am Morning Prayer / breakfast; **6.00pm** Mass*

Wednesday: 12.30 Mass at Faith Express]

Thursday Adoration 5.30pm*

*events in the chaplaincy; Blackburne Place entrance

Sunday: Mass 6pm

November is the month of the Holy Souls, when we make a special point of praying for those who have died – both those we have known and loved, and those many people who have no-one to pray for them.

An Introduction to Moral Theology

Wednesdays at Faith Express after 12.30

Mass. Starts this week!

What is morality? - How does our faith shape our choices and actions? - What are the sources of morality? -How do we go about resolving moral issues? – What is virtue? We will look at several applies areas of moral theology.

Please note that Faith Express is open to all students of LJMU, LIPA and UoL



Rosary walk

Saturday 25th November: to Sefton Park. Starting with Mass in the Chaplaincy at 12noon. We will then pray 5 decades of the Rosary, as we walk to Sefton Park, pausing to reflect at various points along the way.

House Prayer & Fellowship

7pm in the Student House (30 Catharine St)

Reflection on the Word of God ~ Prayer ~ Discussion.

Open to all students of Liverpool Universities and

LIPA

Thursday evening this week: Adoration (5.30-60pm) Chosen S1 E4; £1 supper. All welcome!



Chaplaincy Christmas Party

Monday 4th December! The evening starts with Mass in Church at 6pm. Then we go across the road to the Blackburne Arms

hotel for our Christmas meal. Afterwards, we return to the Chaplaincy till late! There will be a choice of 2 courses for £20, or 3 courses for £25. All payments strictly in advance. The menu can be accessed by scanning the QR code. You can pay (cash or card) after Mass or at weekday chaplaincy events. **The deadline for payments is Tuesday 28th November.**



Weekly Collection & other donations, you can pay online at philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com
Thank you so much for your contributions



Thursday 7th December: **Father Sean Riley, Chancellor of the Archdiocese and Canon Lawyer** will be joining us for Adoration and £1 Supper, and giving us a presentation on the subject of Canon Law

Readers & Servers: Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to read at Mass and to serve. This will really enhance our liturgy. We are always looking for more! There are WhatsApp groups on the CathSoc hub for each. If your are **musical, play a musical instrument, or would just be happy to sing**, we'd also love to hear from you!

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

Vegetarian, Vegan or special diets: for events with catering, we are happy to provide suitable alternatives if you let us know in advance you are coming, and tell us what you can or can't have!

Anticipation of Light...

Chaplaincy Assistant Hana offers the following reflection...

I don't know how about you but I quite cannot believe that Advent starts in a couple of weeks time. It feels like summer was only a month ago... Oh, how I miss the long bright days! I guess there are a number of you reading this possibly in disagreement because you very well may actually enjoy the short days more... Which is great! But I find it particularly pleasant only in specific moments. Let me share - I promise this leads somewhere more meaningful than just me expressing my preference of seasons!

The moments I have truly enjoyed during winter months are those after spending time outside in the crisp cold air, with snow around, and coming to a warm home where mum would have hot cocoa or herbal tea with a bit of homemade berry squash ready for us. It was the moment after being active, facing the cold and then receiving the melting sweetness of the warmth of home and mum's love shown in the simplicity of a hot drink. The calmness was instilled.

With this image in mind, I have realised why I feel the tension or perhaps what I would call a slight dislike of the short days. There are many activities I do and love doing. Bright long days gives the encouragement to undertake them all while on the other hand with the shorter days I would much rather stay in bed longer in the morning and go to bed much earlier or just to rest. Although this would seem, at least in my opinion, like a natural approach to this season yet the reality in our lives is very different. In contrast, it speeds up! There are many assignments to be handed in during November and December and often rushing to get things ready for Christmas which, on top of it all, the commercial sphere tries to convince us Christmas has already begun.

For these reasons it may be a good idea to tap into the beautiful treasury of our Catholic faith and lean into the soon approaching Advent season intentionally. Not in a sense of overburdening ourselves with 'more tasks' but to embrace the season of awaiting and longing, filled with anticipation. Anticipation of what? Light. Both in terms of sun staying in the sky longer, little by little, but most of all the Son who is the Light of the world. 'The light [that] shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' (John 1:1-5)

More so, for me Advent is associate with sound, specifically with the delightful Rorate Caeli chant. When growing up, we [my family] would go to Rorate Mass most of the weekdays during which the chant was sung. The Mass started at 6.30 in the morning which, trust me, was often a sacrifice especially when the temperature outside was way below zero degrees. But despite the initial discomfort I found those Masses unique and striking, truly transcending, even as a child. Also, the quietness of the town when going to the Mass was special. It ignited the sense of awaiting, being awake before everyone else.

How about you? How do you experience Advent? What words would you use to describe Advent? Is there something you would like to do this year to make the Advent season more intentional, not letting the world drag you along? Who would you like to journey with? (Mother Mary, St John the Baptist, St Joseph,...) Are you anticipating to encounter the mystery of Christ even deeper this Christmas?

If you'd like to you can have a chat with your friends about Advent, there is still time to make wilful, not rushed decisions. Also make sure to encourage each other during the season of Advent to intentionally prepare your hearts to welcome Jesus and receive peace only He can give.

PS The freezing temperature and mountain of snow doesn't happen here in Liverpool!