



# 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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## 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)



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

**Tuesday: Morning prayer 8am, followed by breakfast; Mass 5pm\***

**Wednesday: 6pm** Mass with imposition of Ashes (No Mass/lunchtime meeting at Faith Express)

**Thursday:** Adoration 5.30pm\* followed by £1 supper

\*events in the chaplaincy; Blackburne Place entrance

**Sunday:** Confession: 5.15 – 5.35pm; Mass 6pm

## Rites of Entrance into the Catechumenate and Election

As many of you know, Yasmin, Rosie and Maria have been preparing for entry into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) since last term, and now their preparation enters a new phase. Chloe has been preparing alongside them for Confirmation.



Today at 6pm Mass here, candidates will enter the catechumenate at a simple rite during Mass. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, they along with other candidates from around the Archdiocese, will be Enrolled at a service at the

Cathedral, led by Archbishop McMahon, at 2.45pm. This service will be

open to any of you who wish to attend to support them as I am sure many of you will. It is hoped to celebrate their Sacraments of Initiation here in May.



**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> is Pancake**

**Tuesday** We'll be making pancakes at the Chaplaincy...!

A £2 donation will be asked which will go to **Mary's Meals**. The evening will end

with Night Prayer at 8.15pm. **Mass will be at 5pm that day**



**Wednesday** marks the start of Lent. There will be Mass here at 6pm, with imposition of ashes.

There are also Masses in the Cathedral of 8am, 12.15pm, & 5pm, and a service of the Word at 7pm

**Staff & PhD Group:**

**Wednesday after Mass (c.7pm)** the chaplaincy. 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.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>: Gardening at 10am, followed by bacon butties! [Mass @ 9.30am]**

**An idea for Lent...Why not join the 'Holy Breakfast Club'! We meet at 8am on Tuesdays in the chaplaincy to pray Morning Prayer, then at 8.15 we have breakfast together. A great way to start the day!**



**Retreat Weekend – February 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> at Wistaston Hall, Crewe, with the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia**

Just 2 weeks away!! If any of you still want to go (we still have a couple spaces), you can collect application forms from Fr Neil or Hana. Return them with your payment (£40) and we will put your name on the list. Places are limited, so don't delay! We will be in touch next week **by email** with details

Two rooms have now been made available in the Student House for next year, so if you are interested, do speak to Fr Neil or Hana!

**Weekly Collection & other donations, you can pay online at [philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com](http://philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com)**  
Thank you so much for your contributions



# Where does the money come from?

How our Chaplaincy is funded, and what we spend the money on.

*St Paul writes to the church in Corinth: "We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily give according to their means, and even beyond their means... (2 Cor 8:1-3)"*

Do you ever wonder how our chaplaincy is paid for? Or where that money comes from? Perhaps some of you have, but I bet many of you haven't! I think it is a good thing for ordinary Catholics to be made aware of the financial circumstances of the Church, because often people have a rather naïve view that the money just magically appears, or - - even worse! - "The Church has got lots of money"

At the chaplaincy we are the generous recipient of donations from a number of sources – but remember – somewhere along the line, **most of the money we get come from ordinary people in other churches who put their money on the plate.** The funding the chaplaincy receives is given to us – to you – *in trust*, that what you receive here will be repaid in what you will give back to the Church, not just by your own financial contributions but in what you do for the Church, the ways you become involved, and help carry on the mission of the Church – the mission of Jesus Christ to establish God's kingdom on earth. So the funding the chaplaincy receives is an 'investment' in you!

## **Here are some facts and figures:**

**Income:** Our income last year was £27,385.00. Our biggest single source of income is the rent paid by residents of the chaplaincy. This is around £12k per annum this year, but can be more if we have more residents. [Against that, we spend several thousand pounds each year in utility bills, repairs and maintenance in the student house.]

The Chaplaincy gets a grant of some £8k each year from the Archdiocese of Liverpool.. Additionally, The Archdiocese also pays my personal allowance, as well as the salaries for Katarzyna (our Administrator), Hana, and our cleaner. The Archdiocese gets its income by levy from parishes, as well as investment income, but ultimately, *all that money comes from ordinary people.* Sr Rachel kindly donates her time free to the chaplaincy.

Mass offerings, funeral and wedding fees came to £530. Offertory collections at the 6pm Mass last year amounted to some £797 – around £27 per week, and that included the generous donation that the late Mary Grazulis used to put in! We also received a few kind donations - £250 from the Catenians was donated towards our retreat, and some local people, also a couple of former students.

**Expenditure:** Our buildings are beautiful, but expensive! Heating and electricity for the church last year came to almost £2,700 – and as some of you will remember, our heating system was broken for part of the winter, otherwise we would have spent even more on gas! At the moment, it is costing around £120 to have the heating on for 12 hours on a Sunday ... the cost of gas has trebled in the last 2 years.

We also spent about £3000 on various repair and maintenance projects. We had the chaplaincy lounge painted, and had new wall lights installed. Food is another major source of expenditure...last year we spent just under £1,800 on food for chaplaincy events – Thursday evenings, start & end of year BBQ, breakfast, tea and coffee etc.

Another large expense is what we call 'Pastoral Development'. The annual retreat is the major item here. It costs around £170 per person for a weekend at a retreat centre. Yes, there are cheaper venues, but for a retreat it has to fulfil certain criteria. As you know, the cost of the coach alone last year to take us there and bring us back was over £800. (This year, we are going somewhere nearer at hand!) There is also a stipend for the sisters who lead the retreat, and their travel expenses to be paid. Obviously, we can't charge the full cost to students....the £40 for the weekend we ask is only about 20% of the actual cost per person, which is borne by the chaplaincy. However, I have always felt that the retreat more than justifies its expense, when I see the effect that it has on those who attend, and how it helps develop a strong community spirit. As you can see, we are overwhelmingly resourced by the generosity of others – mostly, people we will never meet. Our overall outgoings last year came to £32,462.00

**How much should you give to the chaplaincy?** There is no hard and fast rule here, because you all vary in your own financial situation. Some of you, I know, really struggle to make ends meet and meet the cost of studies, accommodation and food. This is more so now than ever. Others among you are more fortunate.

So to answer the question, ask yourself, what do you spend your money on – and what do you value? If, for instance, you are regularly able to go out for a few drinks once a week, perhaps give the price of a single drink to the basket at Mass on Sunday. I had lunch out last weekend, and the cost of a pint of lager was just over £5. But no-one should feel ashamed if they do not have much to give, and no-one should feel restricted in terms of what they are entitled to here. Your contribution to the chaplaincy is not just financial – it is also your presence and participation. In the future, you will have an opportunity to repay the investment that has been made in you through the chaplaincy. Let St Paul have the last word:

*"You will be enriched every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God (2 Cor 9:11-12).*



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