



# 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](#)



## 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



*"Invite everyone you can find to the wedding"* (Mt 22:10)

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: 8am Morning Prayer / breakfast 6.00pm Mass\***

**Wednesday: 12.30 Mass at Faith Express**

**Thursday** Mass Adoration 5.30pm, followed by "£1 supper"

**Saturday:** 9.30am Mass

\*events in the chaplaincy; Blackburne Place entrance

**Sunday: Mass 6pm**



## "Paint and Sip":

This Tuesday at 7pm in the Chaplaincy: join us for an evening of creative painting, social chat and refreshments (we will provide some, but feel free to bring your own drinks, alcoholic or not!)

**Staff & PhD Group:** Will be re-starting for the year on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm** at 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.

**Thursday evening, as usual, Adoration is at 5.30pm. We decided this week that we would watch an episode of 'The Chosen' each week, after Adoration, followed by the £1 Supper. The Chosen is a dramatized series based on the Gospels, which proved very popular here last year – as it has throughout the world.**



## Gardening:

Come and join us on Saturday morning for a couple of hours helping out in the

beautiful Spanish garden. No experience necessary!! 10am – 12noon, followed by **bacon buttie brunch!** Come to the black iron gate on Catharine Street



There is Mass beforehand at 9.30am – this will be 'ad orientem' at the Lady Altar in Church, but **please enter via the rear chaplaincy door.**

If you are coming regularly to the chaplaincy, please ask Fr Neil or Hana for the digital door code.

**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!

**Please pray for the Synod** presently taking place in Rome, on the very subject of synodality, and for all the participants; that they may be truly open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Some of you (a very few) may recall the meetings that took place here for the Liverpool Archdiocesan synod, between 2018 and 2020. I was really impressed how many students took part, and how positively engaged they were in the process.



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.

**Readers & Servers:** Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to read at Mass and to serve. This will really enhance our liturgy. There are WhatsApp groups on the CathSoc hub for each.

If you are **musical, play a musical instrument, or would just be happy to sing**, we'd also love to hear from you!



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

**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.

## Three Inspirational Young Disciples of Christ

As you may know, this week I joined fellow members of the Dominican Fraternity I belong to for our annual retreat, held at Hinsley Hall in Leeds. On the wall of the main corridor are pictures of some of the more contemporary holy people that the Church has declared to be saints or 'blessed'

Three young people who are very good role models for our day were present on that 'hall of holy fame' – one I knew a fair amount about, one I know a little about, and one I really didn't know at all - till I found out - so I thought I'd share them with you.



### Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

(1901 – 1924) was the son of a newspaper founder & editor in Turin. Although his father was agnostic, he grew up with a devout faith. His father

wanted him to follow in the family business, but Pier Giorgio wanted to do something that would be of more direct service to society, so he studied mining engineering.

He was a natural leader of young people. He became a Third Order (Lay) Dominican, and was a very active member of the St Vincent de Paul society, visiting regularly many poor families to give practical help. He was also a keen sportsman and mountain climber, and would lead other young people on mountain climbing expeditions in the Alps. It is likely that the polio which killed him after a short illness in 1924 was contracted when visiting poor people in the tenements of Turin. At his funeral, his parents were astonished to find that thousands of Turin's inhabitants attended the funeral and lined the streets. They had no idea of the extent of his charitable work, and the dozens of families he had helped. He was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II in 1990.



### Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991 – 2006)



Born in London and raised in Milan, Carlo's wealthy parents were not particularly religious. Upon receiving his first communion at age seven,

Carlo became a frequent communicant, making a point of praying before the tabernacle before or after every Mass. In addition to Francis of Assisi, Carlo took several of the younger saints as his models, including Bernadette Soubirous, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, and Dominic Savio. At school Carlo tried to comfort friends whose parents were undergoing divorce, as well as stepping in to defend disabled students from bullies. After school hours he volunteered his time with the city's homeless and destitute. Considered a computer geek by some, Carlo spent four years creating a website dedicated to cataloguing every reported Eucharistic miracle around the world. He also enjoyed films, comics, soccer, and playing popular video games.

Diagnosed with leukemia, Carlo offered his sufferings to God for the intentions of the sitting pope—Benedict XVI—and the entire Church. His longtime desire to visit as many sites of Eucharistic miracles as possible was cut short by

his illness. Carlo died in 2006 and was beatified in 2020. As he had wished, Carlo was buried in Assisi at St. Mary Major's "Chapel of the Stripping", where Francis had returned his clothes to his father and began a more radical following of the Gospel. Carlo Acutis did not strive to become famous but rather to cooperate as generously as possible with God's grace. That journey brought him many experiences, but they were all united by a burning desire to serve God and others as generously as possible. (cf. 'Saint of the Day', franciscanmedia.org)

### Blessed Chiara Badano

While I knew a fair amount about Blessed Pier Giorgio, (like me, a Tertiary Dominican, and patron of the SVP) and a little about Carlo Acutis, I had not before heard of our



third 'blessed' – Chiara Badano (1971-1990) till this week. Who is this young woman with the clear, smiling face, I wondered? Born in Sassello, Italy, Chiara attended

her first meeting of the Focolare Movement when she was only 9 years old. This group, especially its founder Chiara Lubich, had a profound impact on Chiara's life. The group focused on the image of the forsaken Christ as a way to make it through difficult times. Chiara later wrote that, "I discovered that Jesus forsaken is the key to unity with God, and I want to choose him as my only spouse. I want to be ready to welcome him when he comes. To prefer him above all else." While Chiara was a conscientious student, she struggled in school and even failed her first year of high school. She was often teased in school for her strong beliefs and was given the nickname "Sister." Chiara made several good friends, however, often going out late to have coffee with them. She enjoyed the normal teenage pastimes such as listening to pop music, dancing, and singing. She was also an avid tennis player and enjoyed hiking and swimming. Aged 17, she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bone cancer. During her months of illness, she remained unfailingly cheerful, despite suffering great pain. She spent time with another patient who was struggling with depression, although she was often in agony herself. Her friends would visit her, and commented that at first they went thinking that they would cheer her up, but soon realised that, "...in fact, we were the ones who needed her. Her life was like a magnet drawing us to her." Before she died, she told her mother, "Oh, Mama, young



people...young people...they are the future. You see, I can't run anymore, but how I would like to pass on to them the torch, like in the Olympics! Young people have only one life and it's worthwhile to spend it well."

Chiara died in October 1990, and was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

These are but three holy people among many thousands, and they are well worth getting to know. Have a chat with them, especially when you go through difficult times. All our three 'blesseds' here are Italian...but you don't have to be Italian to be holy! Note that all 3 of them were characterised by an intense desire to serve and help others: drawing close to God also turns us outwards, to our neighbour.

Remember Chiara's words: you have only one life, and it's worthwhile to spend it well.