



# 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

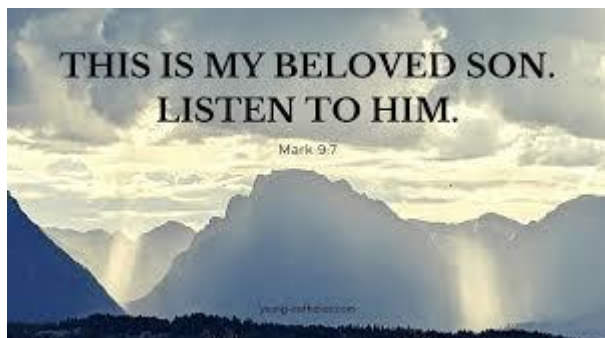
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## 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)



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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:** No Mass this week.

**Tuesday:** Morning prayer 8am, followed by breakfast; Mass 6pm \*

**Wednesday :** 12.30pm Mass 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

**Staff & PhD Group:** Wednesday 6pm in 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.

#### The Journey to Initiation...

In the presence of the Archbishop, Rosie and Maria were enrolled as Baptism candidates last week at the Cathedral; Chloe was presented as a Candidate for Confirmation. Thanks to all of you who were able to come to support them! It was edifying to see so many people from around the Archdiocese who are preparing for initiation.

There are several more steps in their journey. This period of the Catechumenate is a period called "Purification and Enlightenment" On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, there are short rites for our candidates which take place during Mass called 'scrutinies'. It is not that we are scrutinising them! Rather, they are scrutinising their lives in the light of the Gospel, asking God to help them focus their lives on him more perfectly, and come to know his love more fully. There are two other minor rites, called Presentations, which will take place during the week (hopefully at 6pm Mass on 5<sup>th</sup> March, and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at Adoration) when Rosie and Maria will formally make their Profession of Faith and pray the Our Father, for the first time (even though they may privately been joining in these prayers for some time).

These rites are a reminder to us that initiation into the Church is never a private affair just for the candidates alone, it is something that involves the whole family of the Church – which is us!!

**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!**



By the time you are reading this, we will be either on retreat, or have just finished it! Thanks to all of you who have participated, especially our retreat givers – Sister Angela Maria and Bernadette Marie, and huge thanks also to the prayer centre at St Joseph's, Freshfield, who hosted us at short notice after a plumbing disaster at Wistaston Hall, in Crewe meant they couldn't accommodate us!

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



### What on Earth is the Church for??

A Presentation by Fr Neil on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at the Guild, 7pm

In this talk, followed by discussion, we will hope to explore questions about the place of tradition, how the Church engages with the world, the development of doctrine...

*Some of you will recall that these are questions that engendered a good deal of interesting discussion recently on the WhatsApp CathChat group...*

----- **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 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

# How I pray... (2.)

Hello there! I love Father Neil's idea about this personal series on prayer especially during the season of Lent. As I have already shared some specific aspects of some prayer practices (contemplation, singing praise and worship to the Lord etc.) in my previous newsletters, I will try to give you an overall view on what my prayer life looks like and/or how I've been trying to approach it. Before I dive in to it though, here's a disclaimer, I don't do things perfectly, it certainly is a step by step process for me and I'm looking forward to see what the Lord has in store whilst I walk on this journey.

I had to stop and pause to properly see the pattern in my prayer and to reflect on why. I have come up with three overarching categories: liturgical – communal – personal. They are not always separate, they often overlap. And just as Father mentioned he likes to have a routine in prayer, I do as well. I would say it does good to everybody as it helps us to build healthy habits and to stick to it when we 'don't feel like it'.

## Liturgical

Which also could be named sacramental. This is more of the formal part of my prayer life, tapping into the beauty of the Church, her sacraments and unspeakable fount of amazing graces. During my university studies, I started attending daily Mass as much as possible. It is a great mystery and I love to ponder on what is actually happening there which cannot be seen with our sight and the fact that we meet Jesus in the most intimate way possible by receiving Him in the Eucharist. If you don't already, I would like to invite you to try adding a weekday Mass into your schedule, for me it has been a great source of strength, especially during difficult times. And here in Liverpool we are very blessed with many Mass opportunities during the day that can cater to various schedules.



## Communal

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). I love being around people and even more when I can share with them in faith. In this section I have in mind more of the informal (non-liturgical) type of communal prayer which is both on the daily basis but also weekly and monthly basis. Daily prayers include community prayers, weekly at the moment consist of praying a rosary with a friend (which I find much easier to do than when by myself) and monthly are praise & worship nights. In my experience it is very powerful and necessary to be united in prayer with others, bringing our intentions to God together. Has anyone come up to your mind you may want to pray with regularly? Why not to reach out to him/her and ask.

## Personal

Personal or private prayer is what weaves my day throughout. Starting in the morning with a set of written prayers and adding personal and relevant intentions for the day. My desire is to also incorporate contemplative prayer time into the morning routine but it has been a slow building up process... I am certainly in need of a lot of grace and self-discipline to achieve that! During the day I like to talk to Jesus, saying short prayers and asking intercession of Mary and the saints for various situations. One of my favourite devotions is the Divine Mercy and remembering the 'hour of mercy' at 3pm each day, in remembrance of Jesus dying on the Cross for our salvation. Night time is similar in nature to my mornings, quieting down and focusing on the Lord. Oh and journaling can be a good way to step into prayer too.

To bring all this to conclusion, I have noticed some prayers tend to change during different seasons of life, particularly those of devotional nature. And it's an exciting and adventurous journey to embrace. My hope for you reading this series is to perhaps enkindle desire to come closer to Jesus through prayer, make time to pray with your friends and to try new forms of prayer you have not done yet.

Love & Prayers,  
Hana