



CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITIES

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

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5th October 2025

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (YrC)



Events for Students and University Members:

Masses & Services This Week:

Monday: 8.15 Mass at the [Missionaries of Charity](#) house (55 Seel St) – students always welcome!

Tuesday: Rosary & Litany of Loreto, 5.30pm

Wednesday: Faith Express, 12.30; no Mass

Thursday: Adoration at 5.30pm* – followed by simple meal

Sunday: Confessions 5.15pm-5.35; Mass 6pm

*events in the chaplaincy; enter via the Blackburne Place entrance

On **Tuesday**, there is no Mass, but there will be the **Rosary and Litany of Loreto at 5.30**. This will be followed by...

House Prayer and Fellowship: This is a fortnightly prayer meeting hosted by the resident students living in the Chaplaincy House. It starts at c.6.30pm and lasts till 8pm. It's an informal prayer meeting based on Bible readings from the day's Mass. There is silence, prayer, discussion, followed by tea and biscuits. You can either come first to the chaplaincy for 5.30 Rosary, or, if just coming to the prayer meeting, come to Philip Neri House (which adjoins the church; its no. 30 Catharine Street. Ring the bell marked 'chaplain')

Wednesday lunchtime: we meet at 1pm at Faith Express on the UoL campus for Prayer during the Day, then we have a Bible study based on the Gospel reading for the following Sunday until 2pm. Bring your lunch!! **Faith Express** is the Chaplaincy Office on UoL campus...it is at the rear of the Foundation building,

Directions are on the chaplaincy noticeboard, and you'll find them in the WhatsApp CathSoc chat on Wednesday...or just ask any of the regulars!

Thursday evening: we have **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** at 5.30pm for 30m, followed by a video on St Francis of Assisi. Then we have a simple meal together! [we invite a £1 donation] All are welcome.

Interfaith Panel: those of you who have been here for a couple of years may remember the interfaith panel discussion which ISOC used to organise. Talking to other chaplains and faith societies, it is clear there would be interest in having one again soon! Watch this space for further details.

Journey in Faith Group:



This is for people who wish to explore the Catholic faith, with a view to becoming Catholic if they are not already, or for those Catholics who may not have been confirmed or received First Holy Communion. This If you are interested, please get in touch with Fr Neil.



Offertory collection:



You can put your donation in the basket during Mass, or use the QR code on the left to make a donation via our SumUp online store. **Whatever you give – thank you!** (There may be some problems with SumUp, if so, apologies,

we hope to have these resolved soon!)



In order to celebrate and commemorate the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope, CAFOD commissioned an icon from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia, for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Ethiopia was chosen because of the strong tradition of iconography within the country and to demonstrate that this is a global Jubilee. **Good News – the Icon is coming to the Chaplaincy on Tuesday 28th October, when we will have a chance to learn about it and pray with it!**

Faith Inspirations and Encouragement

A reflection from Chaplaincy Assistant Mia..

Hello, I hope you have had an inspiring and an as-peaceful-as-possible start to the university term, with courses getting underway smoothly.

I have been reflecting on how powerfully inspiring the lives of the Saints are and their witness to Jesus. I have found the Saints to be influential in terms helping the growth of my own faith (inspired by their faith and action), helping to direct my journey (by their intercession), and in supporting my spiritual development (by learning from their lives and experiences). They have provided such a profound witness to Jesus and the Gospel over the centuries, demonstrating examples of helping to build his kingdom on earth.

I'm so thankful for both the example of their lives on earth and for the way they continue to be a blessing to us through their intercession. I had been aware of some of the Saints such as St Francis of Assisi, St Columba, St Benedict, and St Teresa of Avila for some time. However, I did not know of many, nor did I have any idea how many officially recognised Saints there are. I have enjoyed coming across new (to me) Saints, learning about their lives and interests, and realising how they can help me to know more about my faith and about God. I feel that they have helped guide me on my journey into full communion with the Catholic Church and are helping to guide and pray for me on my faith journey now. On reflection, I have been almost collecting (if appropriate) Saints that I feel an affinity with and who I ask for intercession. I was delighted to find so many of their lives being remembered this month, the same month as Our Lady of the Rosary, including: St Terese of Lisieux, St Francis of Assisi, St Teresa of Avila, St Luke the Evangelist and St Margaret Mary Alacoque and St John Paul II.



This month also builds on an inspiring and encouraging September. I have found it fascinating to learn more

about the two young Saints who were canonised in early September: St Carlo Acutis and St Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Inspiration and encouragement have come from their faith, their lives, and in what I can learn from their witness of putting their faith into action. As the first Millennial Saint, St Carlo Acutis' stands out to me as particularly relatable due to his shared experience of modern society. This helps me to appreciate that Saints were ordinary people, like us. We are all called to be Saints. This week we have also been remembering another young Saint: St Terese of Lisieux/of the Child Jesus (with her memorial on 1st October), her Little Way and her example of God's merciful love. Fr Neil quoted Sister Cecily Boulding OP who said "there are no Saints in heaven, just forgiven sinners".



Lastly, on the topic of inspiring young people. I have recently been hugely inspired and encouraged by the quantity, and quality, of the engagement we had with so many of you and other students at the Welcome Week fayres and welcome events. The stalls got quite busy on many occasions and

I had not expected to meet with so many people who were seeking to pursue their faith and put their faith into action while at university. It has been an even bigger joy and inspiration to see so many people attend Mass (returning faces and new faces) here on Sunday evenings, and to hear the vibrant chatter of community and relationship building afterwards. Journeying in faith together as a community always brings to my mind the hymn Brother Sister Let Me Serve You.

This also reminds me of an inspiring statistic I came across on the Radio Maria England website recently that said: "Recent research from the Bible Society indicates that the decline in church attendance has reversed. In 2024, two million more people were attending church than in 2018. The most striking growth is among Gen Z, with monthly attendance among 18-24 year-olds quadrupling in just a few years."

Similarly, enthusiasm for and engagement with other events over the last few weeks, alongside the commitment and passion of the CathSoc Committee have also been really inspiring. It's wonderful to hear and see the Holy Spirit working in people's lives in and in ways that help to build each other. I am reminded of the Bible passage 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing". **Hallelujah!**