



## Catholic Chaplaincy to the Liverpool Universities

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University members can sign up to the Liverpool [CathSoc Facebook Page](#)

11<sup>th</sup> March 2018



This Sunday is called "Laetare Sunday" ("Rejoice Sunday") since its mood and theme is one of hope and rejoicing that Easter is near.

Traditionally on this day too we wish 'Happy Mothers Day' to all mothers!

### Mass & Services This Week:

**Monday:** Mass at 8am at the Missionaries of Charity House, Seel St. University members are welcome to attend.

**Tuesday & Wednesday:** Morning prayer 8am, followed by breakfast; **Mass 12.30pm on Tuesday only (not on Wednesday)\***, followed by lunch

**Thursday:** MASS at 6pm, followed by Exposition & Soup\*

\*In the Chaplaincy Centre – entrance via the Blackburne Place gates.

**SUNDAY 11th March (4th Sunday of Lent)** MASS at 6pm

## Lenten Reflections at the Metropolitan Cathedral –

Wednesday 21 March 2018 | 6.30pm.

Dr Paula Powell is a Consultant in Palliative Medicine and Clinical Lead at Willowbrook Hospice. This talk will consider issues relating to dignity in end-of-life care and will offer an opportunity to contribute to discussion and debate.



## Mary & The Saints

In the Christian Life

This Monday at 7pm, our 'Beta Course' presentation and discussion will be on the place of Mary and the Saints in our Christian Life. Come along if you can. Thanks to James for the reflection on the reverse.

'Exploring our Catholic faith'.

*Street Kitchen* Please meet at 6pm in the Chaplaincy

## "ADOREMUS"

### Eucharistic Congress 2018

7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> September

We have a couple of delegates from the Chaplaincy who will attend the 'main event' at the Echo area on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>: Hana Koubková and Rhea Nadeem.

However there will be other events around the city centre (including some at St Philip Neri) which will be open to all. On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September there will be a street procession (open to all) of the Blessed Sacrament.

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### Two Films being shown in Chaplaincy this week:

On Tuesday, the documentary film 'Into Great Silence' will be shown at 7pm – an intimate portrayal of the everyday lives of Carthusian monks of the Grande Chartreuse, a monastery high in the French Alps (Chartreuse Mountains). Its mesmerising, and a great film for Lent (it is nearly 3hrs long!)

On Friday, one of the Lord of the Rings films will be shown at 7.30pm.

Two very different films...but both with (conceivably!) a Lenten theme!

## Saturday Exposition

There will be no more Saturday Exposition for this term, on account of Fr Neil having a series of other commitments. However, there has been a very low take-up this term – only twice did anyone come (apart from myself and James!), I'd be happy to continue providing this, even for just one person...but there would need to be more consistent take-up than there has been. If you need confession, please do feel free to ask Fr Neil, or send an email.

## Reflecting on our Faith...

### Mary and the Saints

In the Creed we say that we believe in the ‘communion of the Saints’. Who are the Saints and what does it mean to be a Saint?

The catechism teaches that the communion of saints “is made up of all men and women who have placed their hope in Christ and belong to Him through Baptism.” This is not denying that there can’t be virtue and goodness in non-Christians but simply saying that Christian holiness comes from our attempts to follow Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews expresses this sense of all the living and the dead being united into this communion *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by **such a great cloud of witnesses**, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hb 12: 1).* Catholics believe that we can ask others to pray for us and approach the saints as a way of bringing us to God. The Church also teaches us that we all have a ‘vocation to holiness’. What does this mean?

The Church officially recognizes particular individuals as Saints. One thing about these recognized Saints is that each is completely unique. St Catherine of Siena said that *“If you are what you should be, you will set the world on fire.”* Perhaps that best definition of the Saints is that they were truly themselves. Another definition may be that they had become completely fearless: as St John says *“perfect love drives out all fear.” (1Jn 4:1).* The Saints were radical in their love. **Saint Thérèse of Lisieux said “ You cannot be half a saint. You must be a whole saint or no saint at all.”**

Pope Benedict expressed a similar conviction during the world Youth day in Cologne in 2005

*“The saints, as we said, are the true reformers. Now I want to express this in an even more radical way: only from the saints, only from God does true revolution come, the definitive way to change the world.”*

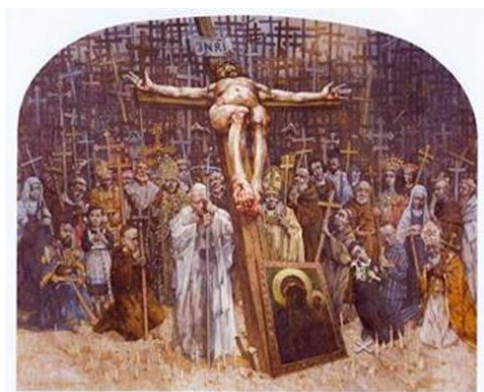
Yet there is a danger of thinking that these Saints were somehow superhuman. They were not. They had struggles and they made mistakes. St Augustine wrote that *“there is no saint without a past, and no sinner without a future.”* What is important is that we try to grow to be more loving through our choices. Each of us is a work in

progress and *“The Lord delights in every little step you take.” (Saint Francis de Sales)*

Mary gives us a special example of this humble love and takes a privileged place among the Saints. Mary’s vocation was unique; to be the Mother of God. She teaches us how to trust and throughout the Gospel stands by her son even when events overtake her. She responded to God: “Let it be done according to thy will.” (Lk 1:38) When she struggled to understand she “treasured all these things in her heart.” (Lk 2:19) She told the disciples to “do whatever He tells you.” (Jn 2:5) At the foot of the cross Jesus tells his disciple John: “this is your Mother.” (Jn 19:26) So the Catholic Church believes that Mary can lead us to her son and that by showing love for Mary we also reflect Christ’s own love. We do not worship Mary but allow her to lead us towards Jesus.

I want to finish with these words spoken to British school Children by Pope Benedict during his visit to the UK in 2010:

“Perhaps you have never thought about this before. Perhaps some of you think being a saint is not for you ... My question for you is this: what are the qualities you see in others that you would most like to have yourselves? What kind of person would you really like to be?... When I invite you to become saints, I am asking you not to be content with second best... The key to it is very simple – true happiness is to be found in God. We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success, or in our relationships with others, but in God. Only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts.”



12<sup>th</sup> Station of the Cross by a Polish artist, showing Jesus on the Cross surrounded by the Saints each carrying their own crosses.