



CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITIES

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

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6th October 2024

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)



"...it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs (Mk 10:14)"



October is the month of the
Rosary

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Events for Students and University Members:

Masses & Services This Week:

Monday: 4.30pm Mass at the **Missionaries of Charity** house, 55 Seel street L1 4AZ, - students are always welcome!

Tuesday: Morning Prayer 8am*, followed by breakfast
- Mass 5.30pm*

Wednesday Mass at 12.30 at **Faith Express**

Thursday: Exposition & Adoration (quiet prayer) 5.30pm, followed by £1 supper*

Sunday: Confessions 5.15-5.30pm; **6pm Mass**
*events in the chaplaincy; enter via back door

Tomorrow, Monday 7th, as well as being the Feast of the Holy Rosary, it is also the anniversary of the establishment of the **Missionaries of Charity**, the order founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta to serve the poorest of the poor. We have close links with their house in Liverpool (55 Seel St, L1 4AZ), and tomorrow Mass is at 4.30pm. No 8.15 Mass. You are welcome to attend!



On Tuesdays we begin the day with Morning Prayer at 8am, followed by breakfast - in the chaplaincy: come to the back door.

House Prayer & Fellowship... after 5.30pm Mass on Tuesday, in the Student House, join the resident student community for prayer (based on Scripture Readings) and discussion. If you are not coming to Mass, come straight to the front door of the student house at 30 Catharine St (ring the bell marked 'students')



Are you, or someone you know, a non-Catholic interested in finding out about the Catholic faith, perhaps (but not-necessarily) with a view to becoming Catholic? If so, we will be

starting a faith-exploration group later this month. Meeting once a week, with no obligations. Please see Father Neil for a chat.

Holy Communion We are planning to re-introduce Holy



Communion under both kinds (i.e. making the Chalice available so that we can all receive the Precious Blood as well as the Body of Christ at all Masses) this term: we are aiming for the First Sunday in Advent. We will be training new Eucharistic Ministers. If you'd like to be one of them, or if you are already a Eucharistic Minister in another parish, please see Fr Neil. You would be required to help with the distribution of Communion at Sunday Mass every 2-3 weeks. You may also be called on occasionally to assist with services of Holy Communion outside Mass, or with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to **read at Mass**. Training for new readers will take place on Wednesday 16th at 4pm in the chaplaincy. If you are already a reader and you want a refresher, your more than welcome. We will be looking at the spirituality of proclaiming the Word of God as well as practical issues.



Weekly Collection & other donations, you can pay online at philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com

Thank you so much for your contributions



Regarding all events with food at the Chaplaincy: Please let us know in advance if you have any particular dietary restrictions.

Meeting the Other...

"It is truly right and just that we should give you thanks and praise, O God, almighty Father, for all you do in this world, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For though the human race is divided by dissension and discord, yet we know that by testing us you change our hearts to prepare them for reconciliation.

"Even more, by your Spirit you move human hearts that enemies may speak to each other again, adversaries may join hands, and peoples seek to meet together.

"By the working of your power it comes about, O Lord, that hatred is overcome by love, revenge gives way to forgiveness, and discord is changed to mutual respect."

These inspiring words come from the Roman Missal, from the second Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation. How much our world needs these words today!

Yet before there is talking, there needs to be listening. So often attempts at rapprochement fail because one or both sides refuses to listen to the other.

It seems to me that these days we have many instances of hardened attitudes; a refusal to engage with the other if they hold different beliefs or ideas, let alone listen them. Sometimes we even see attempts to deny the other a voice at all, for instance in the existence of a group based upon shared beliefs or values which the protestor disagrees with. We have seen this recently in regard to the "Pro-Life" Society our universities. A petition called for the disbandment of the Pro-Life society. An article in the local press described the student who started the petition feeling "disturbed" simply by the existence of the society and saying that she felt there should be no room for such a society at the Universities.

The positive note in all of this was that the Guild of Students and the University of Liverpool released a statement to the effect that it was unable to turn down the establishment of a pro-life society on the basis of the group's ideas or views, unless those opinions break the law. The statement said it recognises how "our members will not always agree with every society, and that there can be disagreement between different groups". Despite this, the Guild said it remains committed to "facilitating respectful, inclusive debate".

I am glad that the Guild and the University have honoured a commitment they gave to me nearly 5

years ago, when they stated that in spite of the Guild's overall "pro-choice" stance, they would support the establishment of a pro-life group if students wished to start one, and that they did not want the Catholic Society to feel alienated by the adoption of a "pro-choice" policy.

It is inevitably the case that people disagree about things. This happens as much within the Church as outside of it! Yet the answer needs to be a willingness to be open to respectful dialogue. Sometimes when this openness is not present it is because the players adopt the stance that "we're right, they're wrong, so there's nothing to discuss, until they wake up to the fact that *they* are in the wrong (and *we* are right!)" Yet this hard line rarely, if ever, leads to anything constructive. It is so easy to simply push the other away because we think we are in opposite camps. If we wish to "win hearts and minds" (yes, I know it's a cringe-worthy phrase!) we have to meet the other, and create a shared space where we can dialogue respectfully. Nothing will be lost by listening respectfully to the other. If, in fact, you do have right on your side, this will not be forfeited by listening. And you may well find that you have more in common than you thought, even if you do still disagree. Certainly, it is the only way that fear and distrust can be overcome. Sadly, it can't always happen, simply because however hard we try to invite others to dialogue, some will not come...but we can at least try!

There is a lovely account, which is foundational to the establishment of the Dominican order, of how St Dominic, as a young priest, was travelling back to his home in Spain through southern France. There were many people there who had left the Catholic Church to join the Albigensian movement. Among them was the innkeeper of the hostel where Dominic was staying. Dominic sat up all night with him, patiently explaining the truth of the Catholic faith, so that by morning, the innkeeper was converted back to the true faith. Dominic did not bully, threaten or denounce him. He won the day by patient dialogue, by listening as much as speaking. This engagement with culture is at the heart of the Dominican order and its way of working. And, in fact, it is at the heart of the Church, as we see in the Vatican Council document 'Gaudium et spes'. We are in the world. Not of it, but certainly in it, and to fulfil our task, to proclaim the Good News, we have to be engaged and in contact with it.



Have a great week

Fr Neil