



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

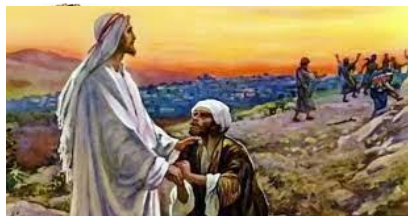
www.cathchap.org.uk unichap@rcaol.org.uk

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13th October 2024

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)



"Jesus looked steadily at him, and loved him... He went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth" (Mk 17:21,22)

October is the month of the Rosary

Email addresses: unichap@rcaol.org.uk is a general address.

If you want to contact Fr Neil privately, use:

n.ritchie@rcaol.org.uk. To contact Arran, use

arran.kearney@rcaol.org.uk

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**

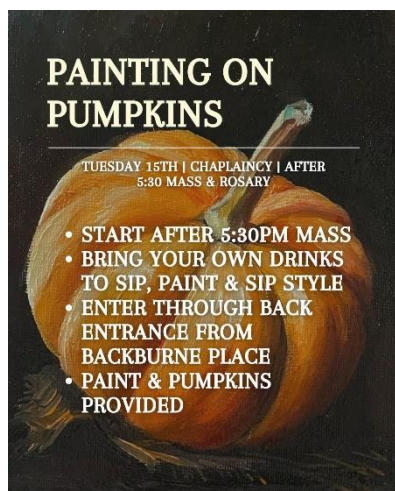
Thursday: Exposition & Adoration (quiet prayer) 5.30pm, followed by £1 supper*

Saturday: Mass at 1030am*

Sunday: Confessions 5.15-5.30pm; **6pm Mass**

*events in the chaplaincy; enter via back door

After the Gospel today, I will be reading the pastoral letter from Cardinal Nichols on the subject of the forthcoming parliamentary bill to introduce assisted suicide.



Tuesday is also the commemoration of St Gerard Majella, 17th C. Redemptorist priest. His

intercession is sought, among other things, for children, unborn children, women in childbirth, mothers, expectant mothers, motherhood, the falsely accused, good confessions!

ROSARY WALK

Saturday 19th: There will be Mass at 10.30am at the Lady Altar in Church (enter via the main church door). At 11am CathSoc will lead a "Rosary Walk", departing from outside the front door of Church. We will pray 5 decades of the Rosary in 5 different locations as we walk through the city, interspersed with good chat. Finishing about 1pm - and then time for lunch!



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.

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.



On Wednesday the **Staff & PhD group** meet in the chaplaincy at 6pm-8pm. This term we will be exploring Church documents connected with the 'Synod on Synodality'

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

Thank you so much for your contributions!!



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

Cause for Hope in difficult times...

Words of encouragement from Arran...

It is very easy, I've found at least, being a man quite prone to pessimism, to look upon the state of the Christian faith in this country and feel rather hopeless. We stand at present in quite a unique situation, unique I believe in all of recorded history. The Old Testament has a well-known cyclical narrative where the people of God rise and fall in their faith. Tragedy, war, sickness and sheer complacency all play a role; the good yields to the bad and the bad times are eventually made to be good again. Yet faith was still something constant. There always remained sufficient heart and spirit and imagination in Israel to ensure that, though the fallen ways of men would take their toll, another great revival was never too far out of reach. Religion as a principle never failed. It was certainly abused and misunderstood and weakened by idolatry - but Religion in its principle was preserved.

It was preserved because life could not be imagined without it in some form: it was the foundation of ancient Israel, its social life, its politics, its law. The revivals all of them stemmed from a new-found desire, prompted from above, to live up to and better embody that existing religion; to recall the memories of the olden times and try and recreate them with new covenants, new commitments, new starts. All of this I say in order to demonstrate that, and I repeat myself, we live in unique times. Great Britain is witnessing and participating in a phenomenon never seen before: its people are not simply lapsing in faith, so as to necessitate a revival, but indeed they are abandoning it altogether. The principle of Religion itself is being openly and broadly discarded, with nothing (for there can be nothing) to take its place. Further, and I believe most astonishingly, this phenomenon, which has overtaken us so swiftly it can scarcely be believed, has gone almost ignored, as if it were the most normal, the most inevitable, the most predictable thing in all the world. You can see how easy it is to feel hopeless!

But then again, we have faith, do we not? A Saint who we celebrated this past week, John Henry Newman, predicted, or at least hinted, at much of what I have just described. Here is a man who saw the drift of the Anglican Church, who sought to arrest this, before finally deciding that the truthful



faith he longed for lay in the strength and the authenticity of Catholicism. We share that faith with him. We know, as did he, that the ways of the world, its pitfalls and problems, are but sand upon the

seashore, washing in and out on the tides of history. The Church is in history certainly, but it is also outside of it: it beckons human beings towards eternity, and promises to accompany them every step of the way, so that even the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. We have a great responsibility, as the bearers of the Church's message.

We cannot afford to give into hopelessness - we must be strident and faithful even in these times of the utmost uncertainty. This we do not for our own sakes alone, but for that of others, and most especially those of this youngest generation, of which many of us are a part. Problems abound, especially with mental health. There is a cause to these problems; they are not spread and caught like the common cold. The chief cause, put most fundamentally and simply, is that self-same hopelessness of which I spoken before, except in the case of so many it is a hopelessness that exists without the consolation and salvation of the Church that we know. We must fight this hopelessness through our example, our words, our knowledge of our fallen selves - but above all our message of the coming Kingdom, which we sometimes find difficult to believe ourselves, but which we nevertheless hold onto, because in our hearts we know it to be True.

Arran