



# CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITIES

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

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16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Racial Justice Sunday



Events for Students and University Members:

## Masses & Services This Week:

**Monday:** 8.15 Mass at the [Missionaries of Charity](#) house, 55 Seel street L1 4AZ, – students are always welcome!

**Tuesday:** No Mass; see below

**Wednesday:** Lunchtime prayer at Faith Express, 1pm  
5.30pm Mass at the chaplaincy \*

**Thursday:** 5.30pm Adoration \*

**Sunday:** Mass 6pm

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

**Next Sunday, Canon Sean Riley will be celebrating the 6pm Mass- I know you will give him a warm welcome!**

**Tuesday Evening – there will be no 5.30pm Mass at the Chaplaincy – instead, we are invited to the Metropolitan Cathedral at 7pm to celebrate the Mass of celebration of the miraculous cure of Jack Traynor - Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP invites you to this historic occasion for the Archdiocese of Liverpool**

**Faith Express:** Wednesday lunchtime: Join us for lunch (bring your own!) and a reflection on the Sunday Gospel, preceded by Prayer during the Day. 1pm.

**Retreat Weekend: 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, at St Joseph's, Freshfield.**

All places have now been filled – we will be 24 in total! Please get the 17.02 train from Central Station to Freshfield on Friday. Arran will be at Central to assist. Once at Freshfield you can either walk together, or we can pick you up from the station. **Please look out for an email with important information in the next day or so.**

**Tuesdays:** I am happy to restart Morning Prayer at 8am, followed by breakfast this semester, if there is a demand for it – if so, please let Fr Neil know.

Staff & PhD group meets this Wednesday at 6pm in the Chaplaincy. We continue our reading and discussion of Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe & Łukasz Poko's book "Questioning God"  
See Fr Neil for further details.



STELLA MARIS

**On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, Mr Chris Reynolds from Stella Maris, will be joining us for the evening. Stella Maris is the largest ship-visiting network in the world.**

**We improve the lives of seafarers and fishers through our network of local chaplains and seafarer centres, expert information, advocacy, and spiritual support. This is not a fundraising visit – just a chance to share with us what they do!**

Update on paying by card or at the Philip Neri Online Shop – unfortunately this facility is not available at the moment; we hope to have thing up and running again in due course, but for now, please pay either by bank transfer (Fr Neil, Kasia or Arran can give you details) or by cash.

*The following is taken from Pope Francis' final Homily during World Youth Day in Panama on Sunday, 27 January 2019. The full text is available on the Vatican website.*



Jesus reveals the *now of God*, who comes to meet us and call us to take part in his *now* of “proclaiming good news to the poor... bringing liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, setting at liberty those who are oppressed, announcing the year of the Lord’s favour” (Lk 4:18-19). This is the *now of God*. It becomes present with Jesus: it has a face, it is flesh. It is a merciful love that does not wait for ideal or perfect situations to show itself, nor does it accept excuses for its appearance. It is God’s time, that makes every situation and place both right and proper. In Jesus, the promised future begins and becomes life...

We do not always believe that God can be that concrete and commonplace, that close and real, and much less that he can become so present and work through somebody like a neighbour, a friend, a relative. We do not always believe that the Lord can invite us to work and soil our hands with him in his Kingdom in that simple and blunt a way. It is hard to accept that “God’s love can become concrete and can almost be experienced in history with all its painful and glorious vicissitudes” (BENEDICT XVI, *General Audience*, 28 September 2005).

Often we prefer a *distant* God: nice, good, generous, well depicted, yet far-off, and above all a God who does not inconvenience us, a “domesticated” God. Because a close and everyday God, a God who is friend and brother, demands that we be concerned with our surroundings, everyday affairs and above all fraternity. God chose not to reveal himself as an angel or in some spectacular way, but to give us a face that is fraternal and friendly, concrete and familiar. God is real because love is real; God is concrete because love is concrete. Indeed, this “concrete manifestation of love is one of the essential elements in the life of Christians” (BENEDICT XVI, *Homily*, 1 March 2006)....

Wanting to domesticate the word of God is a daily temptation... You too, dear young people, can

experience this whenever you think that your mission, your vocation, even your life itself, is a promise far off in the future, having nothing to do with the present. As if being young were a kind of waiting room, where we sit around until we are called. And in the “meantime”, we adults or you yourselves invent a hygienically sealed future, without consequences, where everything is safe, secure and “well insured”. We don’t want to offer you a laboratory kind of future. This is a “make-believe” happiness, not the happiness of today, of what is concrete, of love. And so, with this “make-believe” happiness, we “tranquelize” you, we numb you into keeping quiet, so that you don’t make too much of a nuisance, so that you don’t question yourselves or question us; and in that “meantime” your dreams lose their buoyancy, they seem to move slowly, they begin to become flat and dreary, petty and plaintive (cf. *Palm Sunday Homily*, 25 March 2018). Only because we think, or you think, that your *now* has not yet come, that you are too young to be involved in dreaming about and working for the future. And that’s how we keep procrastinating... And do you know something? A lot of young people like this. Please let us help them to not like this, to rebel, and to want to live the “now” of God...

You, dear young people, are not the future. We like to say, “you are the future”. No, you are the present. You are not the future of God, you young people are the *now of God*. He invites you and calls you in your communities and cities to go out and find your grandparents, your elders; to stand up and with them to speak out and realize the dream that the Lord has dreamed for you.

Not tomorrow, now, for wherever your treasure is now, there will your heart also be (cf. *Mt 6:21*). Whatever you fall in love with, it will win over not only your imagination, it will affect everything. It will be what makes you get up in the morning, what keeps you going at times of fatigue, what will break open your hearts and fill you with wonder, joy and gratitude. Realize that you have a mission and fall in love; that will decide everything (cf. PEDRO ARRUIPE, S.J., *Nada es más práctico*). We may possess everything, but, dear young friends, if we lack the passion of love, we will have nothing. The passion of love today! Let us allow the Lord to make us fall in love and let him take us into the future!

For Jesus, there is no “meantime”, but only a merciful love that wants to enter into and win over our hearts. He wants to be our treasure, because Jesus is not a “meantime”, an interval in life or a passing fad; he is generous love that invites us to entrust ourselves.

Dear young friends, do you want to live out your love in a practical way? May your “yes” continue to be the gateway for the Holy Spirit to give us a new Pentecost for the Church and for the world.