



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

 [Liverpool CathChap Facebook Page](#)  [liverpoolcathsoc](#)



12th May 2024

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (year B)



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 Hana, use

h.koubkova@rcaol.org.uk

Events for Students and University Members:

Masses & Services This Week:

Monday: 8am Mass at the [Missionaries of Charity](#) house, 55 Seel street – students are always welcome!

Tuesday: Morning prayer 8am, followed by breakfast; Mass 6pm *

Wednesday: 12.30pm Mass at Faith Express

Thursday: Adoration 5.30pm followed by £1 supper

Sunday:

11am Mass (Pentecost Sunday)

Welcome to Yasmin, Rosie and Maria! After a long period of prayer, study and discernment, they make today their profession of faith, and are baptised at the font, making them members of the Body of Christ.

Together with Chloe, they will then receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, before receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy

Communion for the first time. Welcome to Bishop Tom Neylon who is joining us to lead the celebrations!



Sunday Mass will remain at 11am until our last Mass of term, in late June. (So no more 6pm Mass, till September)

"Mary Mondays"

There is a weekly prayer group throughout the month of May at 1800 in the 502 building TR5. There will be a talk each week, then recitation of the Rosary, and time for

reflection. The room is then booked for revision. Feel free to bring drinks and snacks.

Tuesday evening: Paint and Sip in the Chaplaincy after Mass!



Fr Peter McGrail, professor of theology at Hope University will be joining us on Thursday evening, talking about the Mass from a historical perspective.

Sunday 2nd June at 6.30pm Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer)

in church, led by the Liverpool Bach Collective. You may have seen their posters (they sing in a different church each month) or even attended a liturgy where they are singing. They will showpiece the Bach Cantata 5 *Wo soll ich fliehen hin?* To where shall I flee? Director, Mr Phillip Duffy writes: "Fittingly, for the feast of *Corpus Christi*, the cantata dwells on how the wounds and blood of Christ bring salvation to the Christian soul. The four vocal soloists and chorus are joined by the usual ensemble of oboes, strings and organ and a trumpet." We are delighted that our magnificent church will be the setting for this event!!

Saturday 8th June, 7pm: Mary's Meals Benefit Concert.

Members of our chaplaincy community will perform a programme of musical pieces, both choral and instrumental. This event is being advertised in local parishes, and admission will be by ticket. The proceeds will go to Mary's Meals

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

Thank you so much for your contributions



End of Year BBQ Saturday 25th May 12 noon. Bring your own drinks and desserts.

Please note: all chaplaincy events are open to university members who are 18 yrs of age or older. If you are under 18 at the moment, please make yourself known to Fr Neil or to Hana

Thoughts from Assisi!

As I write this, my senses are still captivated by the beautiful town of Assisi in Umbria, home of St Francis, St Clare, and now the final resting place of Blessed Carlo Acutis.



I was there with a group of 17 other priests of the Archdiocese, on a 'pilgrimage retreat' – i.e. a few days that had elements of both a retreat and a pilgrimage. It is good and important that diocesan priests have the opportunity to go away together, just as Jesus invited his disciples to come away with him: "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest for a while." (Mk 6:32). Working in parishes, usually these days alone, it is easy to become so immersed in our ministry that we forget the importance of coming away together, to have some rest and renewal. Ministry is helped, usually, as a result of this 'spiritual investment'. (And the same goes for all of us, not just priests) As the years go by, I marvel more and more at the deepening sense of fraternity that exists among my brother clergy – even with people (dare I say!) that 35 years ago in seminary I didn't like very much! We share a ministry which is not easy (though of course hardly anyone's life is 'easy!'), and we share a relationship with Jesus, our Lord. We were very fortunate to be lead in our retreat by Fr Conrad Grech, SJ, spiritual director at the Venerable English College, Rome, where some of our young men prepare for priesthood. He gave us a series of excellent talks on priesthood, prayer and service.

Assisi is a town built, not on a hilltop, but on a hillside – that means when you go anywhere, you will have to climb some hills or steps, and go downhill as well! Its is a beautifully kept town – doubtless because of the huge numbers of pilgrims who go there each year to pray at the tombs of St Francis (we were privileged to have Mass there on Wednesday) and St Clare (we had our final Mass in her basilica), and now they are joined by Blessed Carlo Acutis, who died in 2006 at the age of 15, and requested especially that he be buried in Assisi, a town he loved visit.

With its winding, narrow streets, it looks very mediaeval. Mind you, I could not help but think that it would certainly have been less 'manicured' back in the middle ages – think open sewers down the centre of the streets, horses, mules and other animals everywhere, and probably a fair number of rodents scampering about too! No wonder Francis – despite his famous love of animals -used to love going up the hillside above the town to his retreat at Cacere!

While we were there, I reflected a lot also on the rich tapestry of charisms and ministries that makes our church 'Catholic'. You may be attracted more to one particular saint or religious order than another. Perhaps you might even become a religious, priest or third order member of one. We are all different, and our individual temperaments will



perhaps lean us more toward one saint/movement/charism than another -yet we are all in the same church, and we should keep all these different parts of the picture in view. All of them will help us, in different ways perhaps, to give ourselves more deeply to Jesus, and to find our part in his mission. So I encourage you to get to know the saints. Learn from them. Make friends with them!



Someone like Blessed Carlo shows us 'holiness in our own time' – we can relate to him easily. But he in turn will help you

discover other saints – like St Francis – as you get to know them, you can see that despite the centuries, they have something timeless to share with us.

Have a blessed week!

Fr Neil