



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

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20th October 2024

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)



October is the month of the
Rosary

The Rosary will be prayed on Sunday at 7.40pm, Tuesday after 5.30pm Mass, and Thursday during Adoration.

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: 8.15 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



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.

Join the Missionaries of Charity at Seel Street on Mondays in their mission to the homeless and destitute

In Collaboration with the Missionaries of Charity Sisters on Seel Street, there will be a new Volunteering opportunity on Monday evenings taking food and friendship to those on the streets.

The plan is to meet at the convent for 17:30 for Adoration, (55 Seel street L1 4AZ) then take food out at 18:00 for roughly an hour.

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity, please get in touch with CathSoc Committee members and you'll be added to the WhatsApp group.

NOTE: You don't have to commit to volunteer every week, you can sign onto the rota as much or as little as you're able to. All help is greatly appreciated!

Weekly Collection & other donations, you can pay online

philipnerihouse.sumupstore.com

Thank you so much for your contributions!!

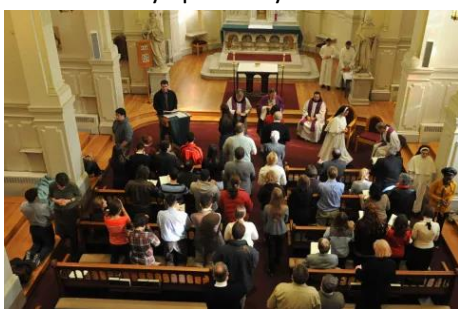


Regarding all events with food at the Chaplaincy: Please let us know in advance if you have any particular dietary restrictions.

“As the living Father sent me, and I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me (John 6.57)”

The Mass is the ‘source and summit of Christian Life’ (Lumen Gentium #11). At Mass, we meet together as God’s family, we listen to his word as he speaks to us in his Word as it is proclaimed to us in the Readings, we offer him our prayers for the world and those special intentions we bring.

But the ‘summit’ of every Mass is the Eucharistic celebration, which takes place at the altar. We bring our little gifts – a tiny wafer of bread, a few drops of wine – which represent us, giving ourselves to God. By the power of God’s Holy Spirit they are transformed into Jesus Christ



himself. The bread and wine literally and physically become the Body and Blood of Christ. The Church teaches

us that Jesus is wholly and fully present – “Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity”, even though the host and the precious blood retain the **appearance** of bread and wine. It is not a mere symbol, the substance of the bread and wine really change. And this change is not ‘temporary’ not just something that happens for the duration of Mass: the living presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated hosts – that is why we keep them in the tabernacle behind the altar after Mass.

In the Mass we are ‘caught up’ in Jesus’s offering himself to the Father on the Cross, at Calvary. “For Catholics, the ‘once-for-all event of salvation becomes effectively present for us through the power of the Holy Spirit every time Mass is celebrated (*One Bread, One Body*, n. 30).” It makes us present to his Resurrection. However boring it might be at times; even if we are tired, or distracted...something wonderful happens each time we attend Mass.

When we receive Communion, we are linked in a special and unique way with God – Jesus Christ ‘makes himself food for us’, and literally becomes part of us. We in turn are helped in the on-going, lifelong journey of being ‘made’ holy. But when we receive Communion we are also united together with each other – we are made into the Body of Christ. As St Augustine said – we ‘become what we eat’ (sermon 272). When we receive Holy Communion, we are spiritually united also with everyone else in the

Church throughout the world. But we are also united with those who have ‘gone before us, marked with the sign of faith (EPIII)’ – the people we have loved who have died – and also with all the Saints in the Heavenly Kingdom. Receiving Communion gives us powerful help in our spiritual growth – especially overcoming those things which hold us back from living more fully for Christ. And receiving Communion heals us of the effects of sin.

The normal practice in Catholic Churches in the UK, since 1985, is to receive Communion both in the form of the Host, and from the Chalice. Jesus is fully present in both, but the sign value of receiving both kinds means it is good to do this. During Covid, the practice of offering the Blood of Christ to the congregation had to stop, and it has taken some time for us to be in a position to again offer the Chalice to the people. However, soon we hope to have sufficient Eucharistic Ministers to be able to do this at every Mass. We are aiming for the First Sunday in Advent (1st December). If you are interested in training as a Eucharistic Minister please let me know.



When should I receive Communion?

Given all of the above, the answer should be surely ‘as often as possible! To receive Communion, you need to be in full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church.* Sometimes people don’t receive Communion because they ‘don’t feel worthy’, or they feel conscious of sin. But none of us is ever ‘worthy’ – we need Communion *because* we are ‘unworthy’! And we need Communion to *overcome* our sinfulness. Only extremely serious sin (e.g. murder, giving false witness) should prevent a Catholic from receiving Communion.

It’s good to get to Mass, not simply on Sundays, but through the week as well. Weekday Masses tend to have a more intimate atmosphere which many people appreciate. But Mass and Communion are not ‘ends in themselves’ - it must be a ‘stimulus to action’ (*One Bread One Body*, p.15). **At the end of Mass we are ‘sent out’ to bring Christ to the world.**

Have a great week!

Fr Neil

*There are some very exceptional circumstances under which non-Catholic Christians who share our beliefs may receive Communion in a Catholic celebration.