



CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITIES

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

30 Catharine Street L8 7NL

Chaplain: Fr Neil Ritchie Tel: 0151-709 3858

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

5th April 2020



...the beginning of Holy Week



Events for students & university members:

Mass & Services:

Looking for Mass or other services online? Here's a great resource. It's an ecumenical site, linking to Churches of all denominations from round the country, including Catholic churches:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/country/england/>

In Liverpool several churches have started streaming Mass, including the Metropolitan Cathedral, St Anne's and St Vincent's. See liverpoolcatholic.org.uk for a full list.

Numerous churches, convents and religious houses have begun streaming not only Mass, but holy hours, Rosary etc. Tyburn Convent in London are streaming perpetual live adoration.

Other prayer resources: sacredspace.ie is a ministry of the Irish Jesuit province: guided prayer resources for personal daily prayer.

Streamed Masses from the Chaplaincy this week:

Thursday 9th April 7pm BST: **Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Friday 10th April 3pm: **Passion Service**

Sunday 5th April 11am BST: **Easter Sunday Mass**

These will be available through St Philip Neri Church Facebook page, and also at

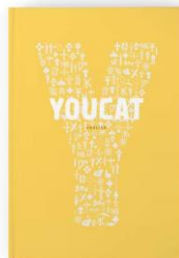
www.cathchap.org.uk

The Easter Vigil: I hope you will be able to keep vigil on Easter Saturday night! We will not be celebrating a Vigil Mass here, but Cathedrals and parish throughout the country (and the world) will be streaming their Masses live. Archbishop Malcom will be celebrating Mass at 8pm in the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool, streamed live on the Cathedral Facebook page. Or, you could join the Holy Father as he celebrates Mass in Rome, via the Vatican News YouTube channel.

How are you doing??

Here at the chaplaincy, things are quiet! However, Ciarán and I are still here.

Whether you are at home or still in the Liverpool area, we are still available if you need us. Finding self-isolation challenging? Or just want to catch up with a chat? Please contact us by phone, email or pm.



On Monday seven of us met for an hour online via Zoom to explore the theme "Why the Cross", using resources from YouCat, the Church's Catechism for young people. A worksheet is

made available online a few days before, which we follow in the session. The session went well – the hour passed very quickly, and we all became immersed in prayerful reflection and discussion! It was good to see some familiar faces as well! We will start again on Monday 20th.

Looking for some good online resources to help develop your faith during these times?

The Thomistic Institute in Washington DC run by the Dominican Friars has some really interesting lectures and study materials. The “Quarantine Lectures” have been developed as a resource for these troubled times....

“What is health for the soul?”

“Grace and Anxiety in a time of Turmoil”

“The Presence of God in a Season of Solitude”

Available free online at thomisticinstitute.org

Another excellent (and free) resource which some of you are already availing of is their online course on St Thomas Aquinas: “Aquinas 101”.

----oooOooo----

Last year at this time I remember writing in the newsletter that we had had an exceedingly full term. This term has been equally full, but has taken us in a very different direction! Who would have thought, even a few weeks ago, that we would have found ourselves in this situation...most of us at home, self-isolating, with no prospect of being back together again in one space for many months to come??

An evil virus stalks our world, causing death, destruction (not least of the infrastructure and institutions of our society which are under threat or under pressure) and fear. How do we make ‘faith sense’ of this experience?

God does not send viruses or any other sickness into our world. He does not punish us. That may be the way we see such events to be understood in the Old Testament, but in the light of the Gospel we know that our heavenly Father could no more send us bad things

than any loving father would give his child “a scorpion when he asked for an egg (Lk 11:12)

So Jesus want us to be in no doubt: God is a loving Father, who does not send us bad things. Nonetheless, evil does exist in our world. How? God is all powerful, and all good. Yet he allows imperfection, brokenness and suffering to exist in our world. We link the existence of evil in

our world to the ‘Fall’ of humanity (preceded by the fall of the devil and his angels), symbolised in the story of Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis. Their sin resulted in a fundamental distortion of creation; in a sense they ‘released’ evil into the world: now they will suffer pain, hardship, competitiveness (cf Gen 2: 16-18). This is the result of free will, the gift God creates human beings with. Sometimes we might wonder why God created us with such a dangerous gift. Surely it would have been better to create a world in which there would have been no free will to abuse – no possibility of sin? Yet human beings would not be human beings without free will. We would be perhaps like robots, or like animals, whose behaviour is driven by instinct (and some ability to learn), not choice. Only with free will can we love, and it is our ability to love that makes it possible for us to love God, and each other.

There is another aspect to this mystery of evil in our world; that somehow God creates a world which moves over time to completion.

“In violent upheavals and painful processes [the world] is being shaped and moved toward its final perfection (YouCat #51).

God’s plans cannot be confounded or frustrated. Eventually, all evil and imperfection will be overcome. Even if we suffer now – or even die – God promises that he will bring all together in fulfilment and ultimate joy (unless we deliberately reject his free offer of

salvation). He brings about this salvation in the most extraordinary and unexpected of ways: by becoming one of us, but

experiencing in His Passion the full, brutal reality of pain and suffering. As the YouCat passage we looked at on Monday said: ‘since then, no-one can say God does not know what I am suffering (YouCat #101).’

This is what we celebrate in the Easter Triduum.

