

Let Us Pod

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'Being a student' with Peter Vaughan-Shaw

Peter Vaughan-Shaw

Peter Vaughan-Shaw was a final year medic at the University of Bristol when he recorded our podcast. He's now a real life doctor working in a hospital in the Clifton Diocese. Peter hopes to specialise as a paediatrician. He has been at the University of Bristol for six years during which he has played in the music group at the Catholic Chaplaincy at the university and been a resident at the Chaplaincy. He enjoys playing the guitar and playing football. When he first came to Bristol he set up a band that has been gigging around the country ever since - which made some welcome money and gave the band some great time in the process! Peter's footballing prowess has seen him captaining the medics' football team, and joining a team in the local Bristol league which gets him out of bed on Saturday mornings rain or shine!

Full text of podcast

There is nothing quite like being a student.

Many say their years at university were the best of their life. Having spent six years here at Bristol University I would have to agree, so far!

I have learnt that being a student is far more than just learning the intricacies of your chosen subject; it is about growing up; becoming independent and, yes having lots of fun along the way. As well as all this, I have found university to be a great place for growing spiritually.

Coming from a Catholic family and a Catholic school I had led a relatively sheltered life and university certainly opened my eyes a little to the world around me. While some things have saddened me - the way some students act towards each other and towards others for example, I have also been comforted by the strong faith shown by many students of all denominations in the way they live their life, and in the way they practice and preach their faith. Indeed coming from a parish with a rather elderly congregation, I was delighted to find so many Catholics of my own age, alongside whom I could worship, grow, and have fun.

My faith and the support of those young Catholics around me has been a great support for me at times of loneliness. After-all leaving home, leaving your family and friends and coming to a foreign city, knowing no-one and no-where is pretty scary at first. It is at times like these that the familiar sights and smells of the house of God, is very comforting. In addition, I have, along the way been faced by many obstacles, in my personal and academic life - failing exams, never-ending deadlines, and falling out with friends or girlfriends. At these times the strength that prayer and the Eucharist can provide has helped me get through.

Nearing the end of my time as a student, I have no doubt that my faith has allowed me to make the most of these last six years and the opportunities that university presents. Some students find themselves overwhelmed with work and activities and find that they have no time for their faith. To those people I would say, make some time, it doesn't have to be much, and you will be greatly

rewarded. Allow Christ to enter into your life as a student so that he might live and enjoy these years with you, and you will be able to live your life so much more!

Useful contacts

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