



Chaplaincy Newsletter September 2007

*Lord help me to realise
That you will be speaking to me
In various ways
Give me ears, eyes and heart to perceive you,
However veiled your presence may be.
Give me insight to see through what is exterior
To what is within.
Give me your spirit of discernment
Oh Lord you know how busy I must be this day
If I forget you, do not forget me. Amen*

William Barclay

Welcome back after the summer break. I hope you are renewed and feel able to face the opportunities ahead! For me it has been a strange sort of summer, partly under water and partly without water. However at least I now appreciate the symbolism of water in a much more direct way than I ever did before. It also raises questions about the environment and our ability to live simply and in a sustainable fashion. In September the Cathedral will be holding a weekend of activities devoted to the environment. Details of this will follow shortly but if you can support this either individually or by taking a group to the cathedral it would be appreciated. Those of you who came to the Bill Huebsch day on catechesis will be aware of just how inspiring a speaker he was. If you weren't there then he has kindly made his PowerPoint available. To find this go to www.pastoralplanning.com and click on the English section and follow links to Clifton. I have enclosed further details of material which is available to support his ideas. I believe that his ideas on total catechesis are worth a go and would be interested in hearing from anyone attempting to put his ideas into practice. If you are planning ahead please note that the Easter holidays this year are separated from the celebration of Easter. Please give some thought in your chaplaincy teams to how you might celebrate both Holy Week and Easter. If you are working with older Pupils you might like to bring a small group to the mass of Chrism in the Cathedral on the Wednesday of Holy Week. If you require help in the planning or in developing your retreat programme please let me know. If possible I would like to meet all chaplains individually within the first term just to see how things are going. If you could ring or e mail in with suggested dates I would be grateful.

Seeking the Face of Christ

This consultation, to provide pastoral guidelines for the Diocese is now almost completed but we will continue to take responses from schools in the first week of September. The Bishop would like to thank those schools who have already contributed to the consultation. It is important that the voices of

young people and of those who work with them are heard. More copies of the prayer cards are also available and we would be grateful if you could continue to pray for the diocese during this consultation. **On October 20th at St Bede's** there will be a further opportunity to share your views with the Bishop as he holds a discussion day on the themes emerging from the initial consultation. This day is open to all chaplains but if you intend to come and are not part of your parish team I would appreciate knowing. The purpose of this day is to continue listening and is a step along the journey rather than its conclusion. The day will start at 10.00 am and end at 3.00 pm.

Liverpool Hope

This is a repeat of the information in the June Newsletter, please respond in writing or by e-mail to Jenny ASAP.

As you may recall during the afternoon of our last chaplaincy meeting representatives of Liverpool Hope were present. They gave a very interesting session on how Liverpool Hope can support the work that chaplains do and talked about the role of Liverpool Hope in supporting students. The chaplains present decided they would like to see for themselves the work and resources of the university. It was therefore agreed that as many chaplains as possible would **visit Liverpool Hope** in September for an overnight stay. The university offers course for sixth formers about making the transitions between school and university and does so in a prayerful setting, it also offers a variety of other retreat experiences for younger pupils. This would form **the first chaplaincy session of the academic year for us and be part retreat. It would also provide an excellent forum for enabling chaplains to get to know each other and to share good practice. The date agreed was Friday 14th September 2007 staying overnight and leaving midday on Saturday.** It was suggested that car sharing would make transport easier but in order to do that I need to know who is going. The cost will be finalized later but Liverpool are subsidizing this. Transport costs will be decided when we know who is definitely coming.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 14th September 2007. Overnight chaplaincy retreat and conference at Liverpool Hope University.

28th -30th September 2007. Clifton Cathedral is holding an environmental weekend.

5th -6th October 2007 Same Planet: Different World. This is a conference for teachers, youth workers and chaplains who work with students in the 16-19 age range and will consider spirituality. It is being held in Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire; It is a residential course and runs from 4pm Friday 5th October till 4pm Saturday 6th October 2007 and costs £50. If you are interested please go to www.dare2engage.org and follow the instructions there.

Tuesday October 9th 2007 - Mass for all those involved in Catholic Education. This will be held at Clifton Cathedral and begin at 7.30pm. Bishop Declan will be the main celebrant. There will be tea and coffee in the Apostle's room afterwards and an opportunity to "catch up". Please do your best to support this event and encourage colleagues to come.

Monday 19th November 2007. An advent study/reflection evening. This will be held at Alexander House and run from 4.30 pm till 7.30pm. The aim will be to look at how we celebrate Advent within school, consider how to make the most of the season and provide some resources to help schools do this.

January 30th 2008. "Seeking the Face of Christ". A discussion for both primary and secondary colleagues, on the responses to the consultation sent in by schools. We will also consider the draft pastoral guidelines which should be published by then. This will begin with lunch at 12.30pm and continue till approximately 3.30pm.

Tuesday 12th February 2008. Chaplaincy Meeting - This will focus on the work of Pax Christi and Life. The pairing is deliberate. We cannot simply want to defend innocent and vulnerable human beings before birth we also need to consider the whole issue of violence and justice in our world. As I write the number of civilian casualties in Iraq was reported officially as 1763 in April 2007. Exactly how many Iraqi lives have been lost is a controversial topic, with estimates varying wildly. More than 3,700 coalition soldiers have died, but US forces do not keep complete records of civilians killed. Nor does the Iraqi government have a precise figure. Health Ministry estimates in November 2006 ranged from 100,000 to 150,000 dead. (Source BBC News). This contrasts with a survey of Iraqi households in the Lancet, which suggested that - by July 2006 - about 655,000 Iraqi deaths were "a consequence of the war".

Please find attached a liturgical calendar for 2007/2008.

Many thanks for all you do,
God Bless,



Ann Fowler

Liturgical Calendar for September 2007 to December 2008

		2007	2008
1 st January	Mary Mother of God		Tuesday
Sunday between 2 nd – 8 th January	Epiphany		6 th January
Sunday after Epiphany but not if Epiphany is on 7 th or 8 th January	Baptism of the Lord		13 th January
	Ash Wednesday		6 th February
Palm Sunday	Passion Sunday		16 th March
	Good Friday		21 st March
	Easter Sunday		23 rd March
Moved to Sunday	Ascension of the Lord		4 th May
	Pentecost Sunday		11 th May
	Trinity Sunday		18 th May
Moved to Sunday	Body and Blood of Christ		25 th May
29 th June Holy Day of obligation	St. Peter and St. Paul		Sunday 29 th June
15 th August Holy Day of obligation	Assumption of Mary	Wednesday	Friday
1 st November Holy Day of obligation	All Saints	Thursday	Sunday 2 nd November
Last Sunday of the year	Christ the King	25 th November	23 rd November
First Sunday of	Advent	2 nd December	30 th November

the year			
	Christmas Day	Tuesday	Thursday