

ROYAL PRESTON HOSPITAL CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014 ISSUE 8

1ST April 2014

Message from the Chaplain

Welcome to the April edition of the Chaplaincy newsletter. I hope that you have all so far had a good and holy journey through Lent and are well prepared for the celebration of the Lord's resurrection.

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So that you all are aware my new day off is on a Thursday wich started a few weeks ago. It is my hope that on a Thursday morning I will see the volunteers before I head off for the day. There will be some weeks when this will not be possible due to other commitments.

Lent day of recollection

I am really sorry that I have not arranged this with you earlier, nevertheless better late than never. There are two possible dates for this day of reflection as follows:

Thursday 10th April 2014 and Saturday 12th April 2014, I would ask that if you are able to make both of these dates then indicate that in your email. Likewise, if you are able to attend one of these dates say which one in your email. Which ever date has the most people able to attend will be the date the reflection day will go ahead.

The outline of the day will be as follows:

- 10:00 gather for tea and coffee
- 10:30 morning prayer
- 10:45 Time of reflection on ministry
- 12:00 Mass
- 12:30 lunch (which will be provided)
- 13:15 Catholic Chaplaincy overview
- 14:00 cofee and close

Recollection

Reflection on Hospital Ministry called to heal continued

The Body of Christ: broken

Building the reign of God in the here and now is the ministry of Christians. Service to the sick is a particular aspect of our ministry which Jesus himself required of all of us who bear his name. Healing and care for the sick - physically, psychologically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually - must be a priority in our communities.

Since the time of Jesus we have grown in our human understanding of the interdependence of our physical, mental and spiritual health and the breadth of this ministry in our modern world. In his homily, on the Ninth World Day of the Sick, Cardinal Clancy emphasised: By the sick and afflicted we mean all of those who suffer, either by reason of disease - be it physical or mental - or by reason of the frailties and incapacities of advancing years. We mean both those who are permanently afflicted and those who suffer periodically, those who suffer severely and those whose sufferings are perhaps slight.

Sickness and pain have always been an enigma to humankind and difficult to understand because we believe in an all-loving, all-powerful God. Sickness cannot be seen as a punishment which we suffer for our personal or ancestral sins. The disciples asked Jesus about the cause of a man's blindness:

"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?" Jesus replied: "Neither he nor his parents sinned. He was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him". (Jn. 9:2-3)

The Body of Christ: broken yet blessed

Jesus, in his life and his death teaches us that the inevitable sufferings of human life cannot be avoided by attributing them to outside "causes" or by bargaining with God. Rather the Way of Jesus shows us how to transform our suffering into resurrection: something new, something holy. In Christian theology we call this mystery of transformation: "the paschal mystery".

Sickness, even a brief, passing illness, sets us back in the ordinary rhythm of our life. Serious illness disrupts our lives, makes us dependent upon others, takes away much of our freedom and independence, alters our plans, and can close life with vulnerability and pain. At such times the platitudes of human comfort may be little comfort to us but as disciples of Jesus our sufferings may acquire transforming meaning through unity with our Master who also suffered unto death.

This transforming, redemptive view of suffering does not come easily to the sick or to those who care for them. If we focus only on the redemptive power of suffering and the joy of resurrection we may lose sight of the reality of pain and loss and become insensitive to people's grief. On the other hand, if we enter so deeply into the pain of another that we lose sight of God's promise, we ourselves may flounder with them and lose hope. We must, as it were, keep our feet firmly on the ground of human reality and keep our gaze ever focused on God and his mysteries.

March scripture readings and reflections for Sunday's Year A

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 30th March 2014

Office: Psalter Week 4, Readings: Sunday: Cycle A: Weekdays: of Lent

In today's Gospel passage we see Jesus curing the man born blind but there is more to it than just a healing. Jesus tackles the common thought that suffering, such as blindness, is a consequence of sin; that this is God visiting punishment upon those who are evil. Suffering comes to good and bad people alike; it is part of our human condition. Jesus teaches us that it is not the wrath of God.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 6th April 2014

Office: Psalter Week 1 Readings: Sunday: Cycle A: Weekdays: Lent

Most people will be familiar with the raising of Lazarus which appears in today's Gospel. What Jesus calls out at the tomb of Lazarus could almost be the 'Strap-line' for his entire ministry, 'Unbind him, let him go free'

PALM SUNDAY 13th April 2014

Office: Psalter Week 2 Readings: Sunday: Cycle A: Weekdays: Lent

Today, Palm or Passion Sunday begins what is often called, 'The Great Week.' It leads up to the central events of our faith. Today we recall Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. But it is towards the end of the week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday that we enter into the Triduum. These three days are celebrated as a continuum. In essence, one feast divided into three parts, that is why it is important to be at all the celebrations.

EASTER SUNDAY 24th April 2011

Office: Psalter Week 1 Readings: Sunday: Cycle A: Weekdays: Year II

Happy Easter!

Today's Feast is the most central event of our religion. Jesus who died on the cross came back to life because he was sinless. He won for us eternal life. Alleluia, Christ is Risen, indeed, Alleluia!

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY 1st May 2011

Office: Psalter Week 2 Readings: Sunday: Cycle A: Weekdays: Year 1

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast instigated by Pope John Paul II. Therefore, it is an appropriate day for the Church to acclaim him 'Blessed.' Today Pope Benedict will beatify his venerable predecessor and, as the saying goes, 'raise him to the altars.'

In today's Gospel, Jesus, showing his wounded hands to his apostles, gives the Divine command to mercy; to forgive sins. This gift cost him dear; our forgiveness was bought at a terrible price. We should therefore, celebrate this mercy often and with joy.

Chaplaincy Activity 2014

March Total

Total	1229
Gone Home	13
Total	1216
Chat	402
Prayer	189
H/C	376

Not Interested	22
Not Seen	227

Total 989

Other Visits 0

81%

Chaplaincy Activity 2013

March Total 2013

Total	780
Gone Home	22
Total	758
Chat	168
Prayer	138
H/C	297

Not Interested	4
Not Seen	151

Total 607

Other Visits 0

80%

Worship in the Chapel

Friday 4th April 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Monday 7th April 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Friday 11th April 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Monday 14th April 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Friday 18th April 2014

Good Friday **no Mass**

Monday 21st April 2014

No Mass

Friday 25th April 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Monday 28th April 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Friday 2nd May 2014

Holy Mass 17:15