

ROYAL PRESTON HOSPITAL CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014 ISSUE 7

1ST March 2014

Message from the Chaplain

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Lent is a time when God draws us home in a special way, as individuals and as a community. We must remember we never journey alone, no matter how lonely an individual may feel. If we can experience our journey in communion with others, it makes it so much clearer that we are on a journey together. I ask you to remember these words as we encounter our brothers and sisters in the hospital who may have been away from the church for some time. I urge you to journey with them during this special time of God's grace to help them realise that they are not alone.

We Christians are called to heal

Jesus and the Sick

Jesus healed wherever he went. His heart was filled with compassion for all those who were suffering in any way. He reached out to sinners and saints, to young and old, to rich and poor. When people approached Jesus with a genuine sense of their need for healing, they experienced their wholeness through his loving compassion.

Called to heal

As Christians we look to the gospel of Jesus Christ and what we read there is good news: life is lived through death to new life, and healing is its pledge. In Jesus' ministry and relationships, in his dying and rising, our ministry to the sick finds its inspiration and its power.

In Jesus we ground our efforts to heal the sick, our ministry of mutual comfort in suffering, and the rites with which we assemble to confront the realities of illness, pain, and death in the midst of the human community. In life and in Word, Christ entrusted to the Church the mandate to heal in his name whenever the gospel is preached - healing is not incidental but integral to the proclamation of the good news.

Patient Confidentiality

Patient confidentiality

You will all have now received a document with regard to Patient Confidentiality. Now that you have had time to read through the document I would ask that on your next visit to the hospital you and sign the document. By signing the document you are confirming your understanding of what is required by the NHS. Please keep the copy you were given for your own reference a new one will be available for you to sign on your next visit.

Chaplaincy Ministry Teresa Smith

Teresa Smith

I was asked to reflect on what it means to be part of the Catholic Hospital ministry team at Royal Preston. If we look at the gospel of Matthew it is clear what Our Lord wants us to do “**For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome, naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me**”. So, as part of the team we are following what Jesus asks us to do even if we get it wrong sometimes or we are not sure what to say, just listening, praying and comforting is all that Jesus wants us to do, he will provide the right words when we need them.

For the last two years I have been visiting the respiratory and renal wards where a lot of the patients come back again and again. Some have become familiar faces to me as I am to them and it is so rewarding when I am greeted like a friend and we can carry on our conversation from the last time we spoke. The respiratory ward is quite special for me in that the death of my step-father on this very ward was perhaps the start of this journey as a Hospital Eucharistic Minister. I found after spending many hours on this ward that a quiet voice was asking me if this is something I could do, visit the sick not just my family but others who are sick. I had been a Eucharistic Minister for six or seven years so maybe this was the next step, so it is a grace and a privilege that this was one of “my wards”.

My Hospital Ministry journey is also a strengthening of my faith and love for Our Lord. Every week as I come away after visiting I am totally drained emotionally yet exhilarated spiritually. Our Lord chooses our path and all we have to do is surrender to his will, and all the pieces will fall into place. I am humbled every week by someone I meet who is very ill or near death but has the peace that only Our Lord can give. It is a great grace to be able to speak with and pray with these people, who have put all their faith in The Lord. Other times it can be difficult or a challenge to talk about Our Lord when the patient is in great pain or near death and they have been away from God for some time, but at these times I remember that **God does not choose the qualified he qualifies the chosen** and The Holy Spirit always finds the right words. Teresa Ann Smith

March scripture readings and reflections for Sunday's Year A

8th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2ND MARCH 2014

Office: Psalter Wk.4. **Readings:** Sunday: Cycle A; Weekdays Year 2

1st Reading Isaiah 49: 14-15, Psalm 61: 2-3, 6-9, 2nd Reading 1st Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 4:1-5 Gospel St Matthew 6:24-34

We sing it often enough and now we hear it on the lips of our Lord in the Gospel: Seek ye First the Kingdom of God and all other things will be added unto you. Put God in the first place in all things and blessings will be ours. Oh we will not be spared the usual difficulties of life, but we will be better able to make sense of them.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9th March 2014

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

1st Reading Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7; Psalm 50: 3-6, 12-14, 17; 2nd Reading St Paul to the Romans 5: 12-19

The first Sunday of Lent and we begin with Jesus' forty days in the wilderness and his temptations. Christ, our God, can identify with us for he has been tempted in every way that we are. He knows exactly our human condition. This Lent should be a journey to greater union with Jesus who will lead us to peace and a deeper relationship with the Father.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 16th March 2014

Office: Psalter Week 2 **Readings:** Sunday: Cycle A; Weekdays: Year II

1st Reading Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 32 4-5, 18-20, 22; 2nd Reading 2nd Letter of St Paul to Timothy 1:8-10; Gospel St Matthew 17:1-9

For the Apostles the scene of our Lord's transfiguration (today's Gospel) was a tremendous moment of grace; it was given to them to strengthen them for the scandal of the Cross. Occasionally, in the life of most Christians there are moments when the Lord seems so close and faith is almost not needed. Those are moments to hold to for the times when faith seems almost impossible.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 23rd March 2014

Office: Psalter Week 3 **Readings:** Sunday: Cycle A; Weekdays: Year II

1st Reading Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94: 1-2, 6-9; 2nd Reading Letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 Gospel 4: 5-42

The Gospel of 'the woman at the well' works on so many levels. In asking this hard-done-to woman for a drink, Jesus was in fact thirsting for her conversion so that she would no longer trudge without hope but would have a 'living spring of water' within her. Jesus thirsts in the very same way for us.

Chaplaincy Activity 2014

Febuary

Total

Total 1193

Gone Home 9

Total 1184

Chat 405

Prayer 485

H/C 327

Not Interested	20
Not Seen	247

Total 1237

Other Visits 0

Chaplaincy Activity 2013

Febuary Total 2012

Total 753

Gone Home 9

Total 744

Chat 217

Prayer 83

H/C 288

Not Interested	2
Not Seen	134

Total 590

Other Visits 0

Worship in the Chapel

Monday 3 March 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Friday 7th March 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Monday 10th March 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Friday 14th March 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Monday 17th March 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Friday 21st March 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Monday 24th March 2014

Holy Mass 17:15

Friday 28th March 2014

Monday 31st March 2014

Holy Mass 17:15