



Building a Culture of Life: The Role of the Catholic Chaplain

By Father John-Paul Lyttle

Catholic Chaplain to the Royal Berkshire NHS Hospital Trust

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience."

- Fr Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

In this quote the French Jesuit philosopher playfully emphasised the importance of a person's spiritual life. For good healthcare to be holistic (ie to care for the 'whole'), it surely needs to care for the physical, psychological as well as the spiritual well-being of the patient.

As the hospital's chaplain, my role is to help care for the spiritual needs of those in the hospital. I am a Catholic priest so my role then is to be an *alter Christus*, to be another Christ, walking the hospital corridors spiritually supporting the patients and even the staff.

How do I do this? I pray for all those who work in the hospital and their patients when I offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and pray the Divine Office. When I visit the sick I remind them that they are children of God with an inherent dignity as such, for we believe that life is sacred from conception to natural death. Ultimately I have the privilege of administering the Sacraments of the Church. Through these means then I help to care for the souls of those in the hospital.

Always be ready to give an account for the hope that is in you! - 1 Peter 3:15

Despite being in this role now for some time, I remain no less in awe at witnessing when life is drawing to an end than when I started. After sometimes many weeks of journeying through the profound human experience of sickness and suffering, and the medical options have been exhausted, for the patient and their family it often seems as though hope too is apparently coming to an end. Without negating the profound pain the family have experienced and loss they will soon go through, it is nonetheless the case, that death is not the end.

I can do all things through Him who gives me strength. - Philippians 4:

I was recently phoned in the early hours of the morning to ICU. As I arrived, I saw a distraught family and on seeing me, they all respectfully moved aside so I could get to the patient. I spoke to the man telling him who I was and told him that Christ was very near and would touch his life. I assured him there was nothing to be afraid of any more. Then I administered the Apostolic Pardon, which is a beautiful gift to the Church by which the priest grants a full remission of sins, after which I gave the man the Sacrament of the Sick, his 'last rites'. I then prayed the Prayers of Commendation and told the patient that he could go to God's Kingdom in peace.

After this I lead the family in prayer around his bedside and then explained to them what I had done. As Catholics we pray for a 'happy' death, however this is a seemingly inappropriate word at such a time. What we mean by this though is that we hope that the person receives the Sacraments of the Church, are surrounded by their loved ones and go forth in peace. Before I got to the front door of the hospital I found out that the man had died.

This is an example of how the Catholic chaplain can promote a culture of life: caring for, valuing and loving life.

Recently there has been a discussion about whether the Catholic chaplain to a hospital should wear his clerical collar. In my view, I am a Catholic priest and this is a bold witness in our secular culture: one of sacrifice. Far from being less accessible due to wearing a collar, I am in fact more accessible as I am easily identifiable. Indeed the hospital has a "Hello, my name is..." policy!

CONFIRMATION

English Martyrs runs a 2 year programme to support our Young People who wish to be confirmed. The aim of the programme is to create disciples of Christ who participate fully in our parish community.

The next programme starts in October 2019 and runs until April 2021. There are 20-24 sessions usually of 2 hours, including Youth Alpha, prayer and retreats.

We hope that children and parents work together with catechists to make the programme fun and fulfilling.

If you want to find out more or get involved with the programme, please contact Chris Burton on

07768486465 or email EMconfirmation@outlook.com

103 PETITION CARDS were sent off to CAFOD this week in support of the *Share the Journey Campaign*.

These cards are still available on the table in the colonnade.

If you haven't already done so then please consider completing one. You can hand into the Parish Office if you wish.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

1 year course at Douai Abbey beginning on Tue 25th Sept at 10.30am-4pm. The aim of the course is to support those who are willing to journey in faith with others and help them to a deeper level of faith. For further information please see the website: www.soulfriend.org.uk or email Susan Shepp at susan.sheppy@btinternet.com

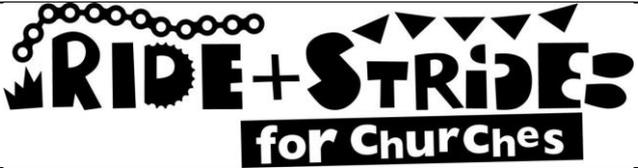
See leaflet on Noticeboard . Also available from Parish Office

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. Applications from committed Catholics are welcomed by 31 August 2018. For further information please speak to your parish priest or go

to: www.hughfaringdon.org/information/governing-body.

FUTURE EVENTS

<p>ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH</p> <p>OPEN DAY</p> <p>AUTUMN 2018 when the refurbishment work is complete</p> <p>WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE DETAILS</p>	<p>Second Sunday every month DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR at Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi. All are welcome. TODAY 2.30pm. Please join us!</p>	<p>FLAME CATHOLIC YOUTH EVENT 2nd March 2019 at the SSE Arena, Wembley 12 noon – 5.30pm. For young people aged 14-21 years (YR10+) accompanied by parish youth leaders and priests. Tickets £20 pp. FREE coach from Reading (paid for by the parishes). Parents meeting in Feb. Booking forms available from the back of the church. Closing date 30.09.18. See website www.cymfed.org.uk/flame. or Poster on Notice Board for Details</p>
<p></p> <p>You are invited to come to our Harvest fast day briefing meeting to hear about CAFOD's work on Wednesday 19th September at English Martyrs' Church from 7:15pm to 9pm. Everyone is welcome. Please book your place: email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk phone: Jo Lewry 01252 329385</p>	<p>FIRST FRIDAY Each month EVENING OF Praise Worship Exposition Scripture reading & reflection, Intercessory prayers Benediction. From 7.30 – 9.00pm. Also Rosary from 7pm Please join us next on Friday 7th September</p>	<p></p> <p>Ride n Stride is a sponsored event that might appeal particularly to cyclists, who try to visit as many participating churches in Berkshire as they can This year we are appealing for riders or walkers to take part on September 8th 2018 and raise sponsorship which will be shared between Berkshire Churches Trust and the parish.</p> <p>We also need people to man the colonnade between 10 am and 6 pm to welcome riders and striders with refreshments, welcomers can also be sponsored.</p> <p>If this appeals to you please contact Ann Davis at the Bookstall after Sunday morning Mass or the Parish Office</p>
<p>BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON SCHOOL Dr Simon Uttley (Head Teacher) will speak at the end of 9.30am Mass & 11.30am Mass on Sunday 16th September. He will be pleased to meet with prospective parents after each Mass. We wish to ask all parents to consider selecting Blessed Hugh Faringdon as their first choice for Secondary school.</p>		

On admission to **Royal Berkshire Hospital** all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to have Communion or see a Priest. All arrangements in RBH are "Patient Led".

Hospital Chaplain - Fr JP Lyttle Mobile: 07391 896559 / RBH: 0118 322 7105

PARISH MASS TIMETABLE 4TH - 12TH AUGUST 2018

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>
Vigil Mass - Sat 4th August 2018 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30 pm	Thanksgiving for RBH and ambulance staff
Sunday 5th August 2018. 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Coffee Morning after 9.30 & 11.30 Masses)	9.30 am	Prabath Perera's Intentions
	11.30 am	Olavio do Rego RIP
	5.00 pm	Agnes Wilson RIP
Responsorial Psalm: <i>The Lord gave them bread from heaven</i>		
Monday 6th August 2018 The Transfiguration of the Lord	9.30am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 7th August 2018	9.30 am	Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 8th August 2018 Memorial : St Dominic (followed by Coffee Morning)	9.30 am	Moira Husbands RIP
Thursday 9th August 2018 Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	9.30 am	John Dunne RIP
	7.30 pm	Mary Hobbs RIP
Friday 10th August 2018 Feast of St Laurence (followed by Coffee Morning)	9.30 am	Agnes Dudgeon Intention
	7.00pm	Home Mass (If you would like to attend - contact Parish Office)
Saturday 11th August 2018 Feast of St Clare	11.00am	Ralph Mascarenhas RIP
Vigil Mass - Sat 11th August 2018 19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30 pm	Bernadette Connolly RIP
Sunday 12th August 2018 19 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30 am	Andrew Jones RIP
	11.30 am	Gerry Cantillon RIP
	5.00 pm	People of the Parish Edwin Cubilla RIP
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Sat. 11.30am - 12.30pm, Sun. 8.00-9.00am, Mon-Fri. 8.25am - 9.25am, Confessions: Saturday 5.30 - 6.15pm and Sunday 4.00 - 4.45pm		

COUNTERS

5th August 2018 - Ana Clayton,
Josephine Slomack & Teresa Ennis
12th August 2018

Pat & Gina Prime

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 6PM

During the redecoration works
All help welcome!!

WEEKLY COLLECTION

29/07/2018

Envelopes £419.00
Plate £877.05



ENGLISH MARTYRS YOUTH CHOIR

'Singing Together as One Voice'

Meet every Monday 4pm - 5.15pm

at English Martyr's Church.

Age 7+ (School Years 3-13) Welcome.

**Choir sings: Every Sunday at 5pm
Mass**

See our Poster on the Noticeboard
Contact Sr. Theodora on 07438 298642
or email

englishmartyrsyouthchoir@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK : There will be a speaker and collection on behalf of the Catholic Missionary Appeal

English Martyrs 64 Liebenrood Road, Reading Berkshire RG30 2EB Tel 0118 957 2149 Email:englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: WWW.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk Registered Charity No. 246871