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MANCHESTER UNIVERSITIES' CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

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Socials / Film Club / Foodbank / Volunteering / Gardening Club /
Library / Ugandan Project / Manchester Citizens / Spiritual Direction



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Manchester Universities' Catholic Chaplaincy



Last week we had a talk about using short videos, especially from YouTube, to help groups to reflect on deeper questions of life, the depth where personal faith experiences happen. If you would like to use them as in a group you are leading there is a great resource at [seeingmore.org](http://www.seeingmore.org) where you can find videos in a range of categories.



<http://www.seeingmore.org/>



MANCHESTER UNIVERSITIES'
CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY



Chaplaincy students helped collect food this week (see centre pages for more)

Sunday 6th December 2015 | 0161 273 1456 | general.muscc@gmail.com

The Year of Mercy starts on Tuesday 8th December: the feast of the *Immaculate Conception of Our Lady*.

"It is not easy to entrust oneself to God's mercy. It is an abyss beyond our comprehension. But we must! ... "Oh, I am a great sinner!" "All the better! Go to Jesus: He likes you to tell him these things!" He forgets. He has a very special capacity for forgetting. He embraces you. He says to you: "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more" (John 8:11)". These words of Pope Francis challenge us. Can we accept Jesus' mercy in our own lives. If we do, can we be equally merciful towards others.

Something to do during the Year of Mercy. Saint Ignatius used to write down his favourite gospel passages and read them over and over again. Choose your favourite Gospel passages that speak of God's mercy towards human beings, of Jesus' mercy towards individuals. You might start with the one above: *the Woman taken in adultery* (John 8: 1-11). Another might be "God loved the world so much ..." (John 3: 16-17). Don't choose too many. If the passage is long, write out what speaks to you. Ten would be enough. Keep them. Read and Reread them constantly (perhaps one a day) until the message of mercy takes root and matures in your heart and soul.

You can register with the Chaplaincy for regular updates on areas you are interested in – www.muscc.org/register

This Week's Events

This week at the Chaplaincy...

Monday 7th Dec

8.30am Morning Prayer —meet in the Chapel every weekday morning (Monday to Friday) to start our day with a prayer; followed by breakfast.

6-8pm Manchester Inter-Faith Peace vigil—in Holy Name

6pm SVP review and meeting—with Stephen Hoyland

7pm Advent Preparation Workshop

Tuesday 8th Dec

10am-12pm Foodbank —serving the local community in crisis. (also Weds / Fri)

1pm Foodbank review—with Stephen Hoyland

6pm Committee Review—with Stephen Hoyland

7pm Advent Preparation Workshop

Wednesday 9th Dec

7pm RCIA and Advent Preparation Workshop—with Stephen Hoyland

Thursday 10th Dec

7pm Carols by Candlelight

Friday 11th Dec

1.00pm-2.00pm Staff Bible Study

Sunday 13th Dec

Mass — Please come along and join for Mass: 9:15am hymns; 12pm classical choir; 7pm contemporary music.

8.00pm Student Christmas Dinner — after Mass join us for a great time together and home-made food (£3 for 2 courses).

On **Monday** the **SVP** meeting will begin at **6pm** with an opportunity to reflect on and share about our experience of any SVP activities we have taken part in over the year.

On **Tuesday** there will be a similar opportunity for foodbank volunteers at **1pm**.

Chaplaincy committee members will also have a reflection period from **6 to 7 pm**, also on **Tuesday**.

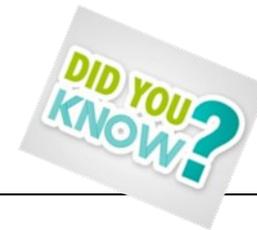


Carols by Candlelight

7pm in the Holy Name Church on Thursday 10th December. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the chaplaincy.



SVP News



SVP Values

Christ Centred - The St Vincent de Paul Society acknowledges the presence of Christ everywhere.

Compassionate - We aim to show a compassion that is non-judgmental towards those with whom we work.

Respectful - We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal.

Generous - We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.

Responsive - We aim to be alert to the ever changing needs in the communities in which we work and to respond accordingly in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms as well as we can.

Accountable - We recognize our accountability to those we seek to help; whilst acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.

Confidential - We respect the confidentiality of those we help, whilst recognizing that the physical and mental wellbeing of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

<http://svp.org.uk/spiritualvaluesethos>

The Manchester Universities Catholic Chaplaincy (MUSCC) Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) 1833 is always looking for student volunteers to join us in working with those in need.

All students are welcome (ages 18-33)!

Attend our weekly SVP meeting: Mondays 6:30pm at the Catholic Chaplaincy

Follow us on Facebook: SVP 1833 Manchester

Visit our website: muscc.org/svp



SVP News

Our MUSCC SVP student volunteers take **Vinnie Packs** to those in need on the streets during the Homeless Food Runs. Each Vinnie Pack contains a thermal beanie hat, thermal gloves and thermal socks, a tube of toothpaste, toothbrush, emergency foil blanket, pen and an information card. While it may not seem like much, for someone living on the streets, it can mean a slightly warmer night during the very cold winters.



The contents of each pack only costs the SVP £3.25 so **if you would like to give a donation to sponsor a pack**, please go to: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/vinniepacks2015> or send a cheque to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ

THIS WEEK

During Breakfast Club, some of our University student volunteers helped the students at Holy Name Primary School make Christmas cards. The cards will go to the elderly people at St. Joseph's home in the hopes of making their Christmas a little brighter. Here are just a few of the ones they made...



THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

Monday – St Ambrose was the dynamic Bishop of Milan who inspired the young St Augustine to become a Christian and whose keenness for congregational singing gave us “ambrosian” chant.

Tuesday – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates Mary's unique status as a person fully redeemed by the merits of Christ from conception to assumption into heaven and therefore free from original sin. This day inaugurates the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Saturday – Our Lady of Guadalupe. The hugely popular shrine was built to honour the miraculous image of the Virgin bestowed on a Mexican peasant in 1531.



Christmas at the Chaplaincy

For any students that will be left in Manchester over the Christmas period - don't fear we will look after you at the Chaplaincy. We will need some volunteers: A) To decorate the church & build the crib B), to help organise the cooking for Christmas Day! Email Br Geoff on: geoffteb@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Do you feel like you need a little time and space to remember what Advent is all about? If you do, you might like to come to one or all three of our Advent workshops at 7pm in the chaplaincy this week with Stephen Hoyland (if you were here last year, he led the weeks of guided prayer)

PREPARATION FOR ADVENT

With Stephen Hoyland

An expert facilitator in Ignatian Spirituality who has led over 150 weeks of guided prayer.

19:00 Mon, 7th December: **Lectio (praying with the Bible)**

19:00 Tue, 8th December: **Imaginative contemplation on the Nativity**

19:00 Wed, 9th December: **Examen of the year / term / week**

Christmas at the Foodbank

by Rebecca Brookfield
on behalf of the Foodbank

December: An important month at the Foodbank.

Christmas can be an extremely difficult time of year for individuals and families already struggling on a tight budget, with many people being referred to Foodbanks from frontline services.

"I was finding it hard over Christmas paying all the bills and needed a little help to tide me over till the New Year." -

Anonymous female client, December 2014.

"I am a full-time student who quit my job to pursue my career ambitions. I didn't realise how difficult the financial stress would be. A week before Christmas my student loans ran out and as a single parent I had no other means of benefit. I was referred by the student union and am very grateful." -

Anonymous female client, December 2014.

As expected, December is by far the busiest month of the year here at Manchester Central Foodbank, as we all work tirelessly to ensure that people do not go hungry over the festive period by providing nutritionally-balanced emergency food parcels. December last year saw a record high demand for food parcels; becoming our busiest month since we first opened back in October 2013. In the week leading up to Christmas alone, a total of 43 food vouchers were redeemed, providing enough emergency food to feed a total of 128 people, 45% of whom were children.

This year, we have already exceeded the number of food parcels provided in the whole of last year. This Christmas is anticipated to be our busiest yet.

Christmas is traditionally a time for giving, and although it is our busiest month in terms of the number of food parcels we distribute, it is also our busiest month of the year in terms of the generous donations we receive,

with November and December being our two biggest months for receiving food donations last year. As the Foodbank relies entirely on the generosity of the public, we know that

we cannot do this alone and are therefore extremely grateful for any donations received, however big or small.

Tesco Food Drives

This past Thursday, Friday and Saturday our foodbank volunteers took part in the Trussell Trust's '*Neighborhood Food Collection*' in conjunction with two local Tesco Extra stores; Tesco Gorton and Tesco Stretford.

The event was a huge success, a number of new and current volunteers, as well as staff from the respective Tesco stores spent the three days appealing for food from Tesco shoppers and collected a record amount which will be topped up 30% by Tesco themselves. The December food drives provide a key source of food for our foodbank over the busy winter months and serves as a great opportunity to work with and meet local people in the community.

A big thank you to all who took part and those who donated!

