

This Week's Events

This week at the Chaplaincy...

Mon 1st Dec

World AIDS Day – A time of prayer, remembrance and reflection during the Mass for those living with HIV.

7pm SVP Meeting – Voluntary work with the homeless, in local primary schools, visiting the elderly or working with people with learning disabilities.

Tues 2nd Dec

10am-12pm Foodbank – The only student-run Foodbank in the Country serving the local community in crisis (also Weds & Friday 10am-12pm).

5.30-8pm Foodbank Christmas

Fundraising Party – Join us for an evening of games, live music and Christmas Dinner with a twist! Tickets £7.

6.30pm Taize Prayer in the Chapel – Coming together in simplicity before God to pray, rest and reflect, through silence, Bible readings and meditative songs, for half an hour.

Weds 3rd Dec

1-4pm Inter-generational Meal – We are cooking Christmas Dinner for the elderly in the community. If you would like to attend or volunteer, please email: svp.muscc@outlook.com

7pm RCIA Course

From Monday 15th Dec we will only have one Mass per day at 1.05pm and at 12pm on Sundays. For the Advent and Christmas timetable pick up a booklet at the back of the church.

Thurs 4th Dec

7pm Chaplaincy Committee Christmas Meal

Fri 5th Dec

7pm Nightfever – We invite you to come and light a candle with us in The Holy Name. All are welcome. If you would like to help and be on our team come for training at 6.30pm and email lorraine.Leonard@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to let her know you're coming.

Sun 7th Dec

4-5.30pm Start of Week of Guided Prayer (Advent) – This first meeting is the most important. If you would like to take part please complete a form and hand it back to Stephanie in the Chaplaincy.

7pm Student Christmas Dinner after Mass – We're cooking Christmas dinner in the Chaplaincy! All are welcome.

COMING UP

**Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday, 10th December
7pm in the Holy Name Church**

Join us for our Christmas Carol Service in the candle-lit church. All are welcome.



Some of our students at the beach during last weekend's retreat



Our SVP group fed **65 people** across three soup runs in to the city-centre last week. If you want to help keep this number growing please contact: svp.muscc@outlook.com



Last week the Foodbank fed a total of **40 people**. We provided emergency relief for 25 adults and 15 children in crisis.

To help us continue our work please email mancfoodbank@yahoo.com

We are very short of instant noodles and sponge puddings & still selling Christmas Cards designed by local artists to raise money for the Foodbank this Holiday Season. A pack of 5 costs £4

THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

Monday – St Edmund Campion and Companions were the first Jesuit martyrs to bring the message of hope to persecuted Catholics in England at the time of Queen Elizabeth the 1st. Many Catholic Englishmen, forced to do their studies on the Continent, joined the priesthood in order to keep the faith alive among their countrymen and all faced a terrible death if discovered.

Wednesday – St Francis Xavier was the greatest of the early Jesuit missionaries and in spite of the difficulties of travel in the mid-16th century he left his homeland forever in order to bring the Gospel to India, South-east Asia and Japan. His positive experiences of the “natives” helped to change European attitudes towards non-Christian peoples.

Saturday – St Nicolas was a 3rd-century bishop who in later tradition became known as “Santa Claus”. His charity and gift-giving made him a popular symbol of the Christian spirit and in many countries this day is the unofficial start of the Christmas season. In Catholic counties he is still represented with a bishop's mitre. And a white beard, of course!





Christmas is busy time of year for foodbanks.

You can make a donation at our collection points in Avila House, Oxford Road or Holy Name Church, Oxford Road.

Thank you



Donate this Christmas

www.manchestercentral.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 1157605



Students at last weekend's Readers & Eucharistic Minister's Retreat in Formby
Manchester Universities Catholic Chaplaincy
Chaplaincy News – Sun 30th November 2014
 0161 273 1456 | general.muscc@gmail.com

Advent - Season of Waiting

This week we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. *Adventus* is the Latin word for 'Coming' and so these next four weeks we await Christ's birth at Christmas and also our longing for him to come again at the end of time. Signs of Advent are everywhere, the Foodbank has been inundated with chocolate Advent calendars and in the church we begin lighting our Advent wreath. The tradition of the Advent wreath comes from northern Europe when people would replace the wheels on their carts with skis to cope with the winter conditions. They then decorated their discarded wheel with ivy and placed five candles to mark the countdown to Christmas. In this country when people started to go on skiing holidays with the development of air travel, they would see these pretty Advent wreaths and brought them back to this country. As we light the candles

daily at Mass we anticipate the light of the world coming into our darkness.

Traditionally, it is a time of spiritual preparation for one of the most significant Christian feasts. A time of prayer and penance marked by purple vestments and colours in the church. It is easy to forget the spiritual preparation for Christmas, as we enter a never-ending round of Christmas parties and present-buying. This is why next week (7th-12th December) our **Week of Guided Prayer** helps us focus on the spiritual preparation for Christmas. We agree to commit to a bit of extra prayer and are accompanied by an experienced guide who meets us every day. There are still some places left so fill out the form at the back of the church. Even if you can't do the daily meeting you are free to come to the workshops on prayer on Mon, Tues and Thurs evening (*see next week's bulletin for more information*).

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