



THE MISSION OF A UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY IN THE DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

A Catholic Chaplaincy serves all the members of its University (teachers, staff and students). It exists to proclaim to them the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to help them hear the call of Christ to become His disciples and to equip them to be Christ's missionary disciples to the world. It effects this by forming the members of the University into a Eucharistic community within Christ's Body the Church.

A Catholic Chaplaincy offers its pastoral services by exercising the three-fold ministry of Christ, the High-Priest, Teacher and Shepherd of humanity. This involves:

- a ministry of prayer centred around the sacred Liturgy. The Chaplaincy celebrates the Sacrifice of the Mass as the source, centre and summit of the Church's life. It celebrates too the other Sacraments of the Church, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It organises times of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, the Divine Office and others liturgies, recites the Rosary and other devotions, arranges retreats and days of recollection, and, assisted by the Blessed Virgin Mary, seeks to help everyone grow in a spiritual life and relationship with the Triune God. The members of the Catholic Chaplaincy pray for all members of the University that the gift of faith in Christ through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit might be given to all. They also offer up prayers of intercession for the needs of the University and its members, the Church and the world. Chaplaincy liturgy should be joyful, authentic, accessible and reverent, with music (of whatever genre) of good quality that takes care to include elements of the Church's ancient tradition.
- a ministry of teaching, catechesis and formation. The Chaplaincy exists to help everyone grow in the knowledge, love and service of Jesus Christ. It seeks to establish a high standard of liturgical preaching, with occasional guest-preachers. Outside the liturgy, it offers courses, lectures and formation explaining the Bible and the Church's doctrinal and moral teaching, faithful to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, exploring its meaning for people today, especially to those who struggle with belief or express alternative views. It seeks where possible to facilitate a critical conversation between the different subject-areas of the university curricula and the Catholic Tradition of philosophy and theology. It pays particular attention to the spread of atheism, agnosticism and indifference, the problem of evil, the relationship of science and religion (faith/reason), the Divinity of Christ and the challenge of living in an affluent, secular, globalised society. It inserts its members into the Church's spiritual tradition and the lives and example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints. The Chaplaincy seeks to communicate authentically, effectively and attractively through modern media the Word of God to all people of good will within the University, in complete fidelity to the Bible and the Tradition and magisterium of the Church. It seeks to evangelise, to catechise and to deepen the theological gifts of faith, hope and love, helping all to discern their charisms and vocations, whilst building up the Eucharistic community and encouraging everyone to a deeper insertion into the life and work of the Diocese and universal Church.

- a ministry of building community through justice and charity. The Chaplaincy and its members model themselves on the Person of Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd. It exists to reach out in charity to everyone in the University, especially those in need, the lonely, those far from home, the young away for the first time, regardless of colour, creed, language or condition. This ‘caring’ ministry comprises personal contact, counselling and spiritual direction, forming small groups, building cohesion, promoting justice, pro-life and the values of the Kingdom of God, performing works of charity to the poor, and making evident Christ’s love to all. The Chaplaincy is built on friendships and relationships. It seeks through hospitality, enjoying each other’s company, social events, fun, shared food, friendship, small groups and other means to build up ever stronger bonds of communion between the members of the Chaplaincy and between the Chaplaincy and others. The Chaplaincy must be an environment where members can grow in openness to others, learning respect for companions who may be on faith journeys different from their own, whilst seeking to witness with clarity to the Person and Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Catholic Chaplaincy operates ecumenically in close and mutual collaboration with other Christians in the University and their chaplaincy services. It operates with deep respect for those of the Jewish faith, of other religions and none. It seeks friendship with everyone of good will. The Catholic Chaplaincy has a mission to all, that is, to

- practising Catholics that they might become more intentional disciples;
- not-yet-practising Catholics that they might become more Eucharistically committed;
- fellow Christians that the bonds of communion in doctrine, life and worship might be strengthened and that all those things that can be done together are done together;
- people of other religions and none that an authentic humanism and solidarity might be promoted, and work for peace, reconciliation and justice be furthered.

Catholic Priest Chaplains and ‘Lay Chaplains’ (lay/religious Chaplaincy Assistants) are coordinated on behalf of the Bishop by the diocesan Department of Educational Chaplaincies. As ministers, they constantly seek from the Father the grace of the Holy Spirit to make present and active the three-fold ministry of Jesus Christ, the High-Priest, Teacher and Shepherd. Self-evidently they must be persons of outstanding holiness, love and spirituality, moral virtue and integrity, wisdom and maturity, whilst adhering affectively to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. They must model for the members of the University the life of a Christian disciple and apostle. They should work with each other in complete harmony of mind, will and heart. They should also work collaboratively with the priests and people of the neighbouring parish(es). They will undertake on a regular basis on-going personal formation (spiritual, intellectual, human and pastoral), especially building up a love for the Lord in the Scriptures and the Sacraments, as well as the practical training and professional development needed to advance in virtue and perfection.

Catholic Priest and Lay Chaplains as representatives of the Church must

- receive an official canonical mandate and appointment from the Bishop in order to exercise their ministerial function;
- be commissioned at a liturgy celebrated by the Bishop or his delegate. This will include making the *Profession of Faith* and taking the *Oath of Fidelity*;
- undertake periodic reviews of performance and an annual interview with the Diocesan coordinator of university chaplains;
- attend in-service and other sessions as organised by the diocesan Department of Educational Chaplaincies.

Bishop Philip Egan
8th December 2016