

Chaplaincy Group Meeting: at Stonyhurst College on 1st February 2007

This, the third meeting of the Chaplains Group in the Diocese of Salford took place in the imposing but interesting surroundings of Stonyhurst College. During the day the group of 18 were able to use the small chapel, a meeting room and the Emmaus Centre. Lunch was on a self-service basis in the College dining room and participants were able to take advantage of a short tour of the College after lunch.

The meditative, thoughtful gathering prayer was led by Ewa, the chaplain from Loreto College. Much of the time was spent on the theme of Lent/Easter preparation and services with participants sharing ideas and resources. Here, particular mention should go to the following chaplains: Dave from Xaverian College, Mike from Holy Cross College, Tanya from Just Youth, Sarah from Stonyhurst and Jacinta from Thornleigh College. Various other resources were mentioned and a positive discussion followed. A quiet and evocative ending prayer time was led by Tina from Fisher More school and Christine from St. Mary's College.

Various 'practical' matters were raised:

- The new section for Chaplains on the Diocesan website - www.salforddiocese.org.uk
- The recently published 14-19 Syllabus Guidance published on behalf of the Bishops' Conference
- The working together of various Diocesan Departments in the area of Catechetics
- The issue of withdrawal from acts of worship for 16-19 year olds
- The implications for chaplains and their work of the recent moving of Holydays of Obligation to Sundays
- The proper support of chaplains-how important it is for chaplains to have a. line management, b. performance management, c. spiritual direction and d. supervision. This topic ended with where the chaplains would like further formation and training - it was decided to address the question of 'support' at the next meeting with outside facilitation.
- It is hoped that the chaplains will have a chance to meet with Bishop Brain in the future.

Next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 2nd May 2007 (10am until 3pm) at Thornleigh Salesian College, Bolton.** The theme of 'support for the chaplain' will be addressed during the day - facilitated by **Rosie Woods from the Archdiocese of Liverpool.**