

## **Chaplaincy Group Meeting: Whalley Abbey on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007**

On the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Chaplains' Group, we were beset by bad weather, explosions and road closures. It is good to record that 15 people met in the beautiful, if rather wet (on the outside!), surroundings of Whalley Abbey for a day guided by the theme 'Endings & Beginnings'.

Our opening time of prayer was led by David O'Malley from Thornleigh College. During this time we learnt some origami and ended with a boat which, following a time of reflection linked to the calming of the storm by Jesus, was placed in the calm or stormy waters, in harbour or in a variety of other places in order to symbolise where we were as individuals. This was followed when Ewa from Loreto shared with us her journey at Loreto and her conclusions concerning her 'vision' of chaplaincy. This time is both an ending and a beginning for her personally. Her conclusion was to 'listen', 'plan' but realise that we can only do a little – and that God does a lot. It was then the time for Khera to bring us to our feet. She proceeded to ask us to form equilateral triangles with two other people who did not know we had included them and who were trying to do likewise, at the same time, with two people of their choosing! In this time Khera shared with us her beginning at Loreto and her ending that had preceded it. We were also delighted to hear of the happenings and beginnings that are envisioned for Thomas Aquinas school – soon to be Loreto High school – by Fr John and Ada. At the ending of our time together, Michael Howley from St. Mary's shared with us a 'vision' based around a beautiful song.

As always the group was eager to look forward to a time of beginning for the next academic year.

- The date which is a key one for diaries is **20<sup>th</sup> November** (for 2pm)– please remember that it follows an invitation from Bishop Brain to meet with him at Wardley Hall.
- A full programme of meeting dates for 2007-8 will be set, and this begins with a day 'Preparing for Advent & Christmas at Katherine House in Salford on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007**.
- Other days will follow, and possible themes are 'Prayer/Liturgy for Staff' and 'Response to Impact Incidents'.

Best wishes and prayers for a restful and re-energising summer break, I have attached two sheets for sharing. Bernard

### **WE ARE WORKERS**

*It helps now and then to step back and take the long view.  
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.*

*No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.*

Salford Diocese: Chaplaincy Group Meeting

*No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No programme accomplishes....  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay the foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.  
This enables us to do something and do it very well.  
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,*

*We may never see the end results.  
We are ministers not Messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.*

**Oscar Romero  
El Salvador**

### ***A Chaplains Our Father***

Our Father who art in heaven  
where it is quieter than it is  
at school.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
but meanwhile chaplains  
need help.  
Give us this day our daily  
ration of wisdom, and  
patience for our own  
weaknesses, as we forgive  
those of our students.  
Lead us not into vexation,  
and deliver us from  
despair. For thine are the  
students and the teenagers  
now and forever.  
Amen.

