



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

The variety of Advent retreats here at Loyola Hall means that Christmas can easily be upon us before we know it. Yet the looking forward that Advent represents means nothing without the Christmas gift of God become human. The realisation of what that really means takes a life-time to sink in. But the invitation each year is to let the Good News become more and more real, finding an ever-deeper place in our hearts and minds. We pray that this is true for each of the readers of this newsletter this year.

NEW FOR 2006

Our 2006 programme includes a number of new items. One of these is "Finding God in the Dark". This retreat will offer an exploration through film of some of the key themes of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. It runs from April 24th - 26th.

From March 3rd - 5th Kath O'Brien and Steve Hoyland are leading a retreat for teachers, giving them a chance to reflect on their calling and pray with others who share it.

See our web-site, or contact the address below, for more details of either of these retreats.

SILENCE IN THE CITY

"Loyola Metro" is the umbrella title for a range of initiatives in which team members from Loyola Hall are exploring ways to make spirituality available to those who work in the centre of Liverpool. The latest example of this work is the "Silence in the City" programme. On the four Wednesday lunch-times of Advent Ian Tomlinson SJ and Una Coogan, a Loreto sister, have offered an experience of guided prayer and reflection in a room above the Crossed Keys pub in the heart of the business district. Radio Merseyside found the idea intriguing, and its broadcast gave the experience some welcome publicity.

CHURCH LEADER BLASTS PLAN FOR FOOTBALL PITCH

This was the rather melodramatic headline with which the St Helens Reporter chose to represent Fr Paul Nicholson's response to the plans that Rainhill High School have for an all-weather floodlit sports' pitch. This will be situated only 25 metres from our boundary with the school. Paul had joined a meeting of local residents who are concerned with the noise and extra traffic that such a pitch is likely to generate. The plans go before the council planning committee in January.

ON FINDING A WAY

The British Jesuits produce a quarterly journal of spirituality called "The Way". One of our team, Rob Marsh SJ, has an article in the current issue which explores the heart of spiritual direction. He argues that this is to be found in seeking the encounter with God in all kinds of experience. The article can be read and downloaded at <http://www.theway.org.uk/thisissue.shtml>.

CONTACT DETAILS

You can contact Loyola Hall:

By e-mail at mail@loyolahall.co.uk.

By post at Loyola Hall, Warrington Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L35 6NZ.

By phone at 0151 426 4137.

Or via the web-site at www.loyolahall.co.uk

The 2006 programme is now available by post or on the web-site.

JESUIT PROVINCIAL SUPERIORS' MEETING

During the last week of October we played host to a meeting of Jesuit Provincials from all over Europe. The meeting takes place annually, and moves around the different countries, but this was its first visit to the UK. Topics discussed included Jesuit training, the need for greater co-operation between different Provinces, and our work with migrants across the continent. The group took a day off in the middle of the meeting for a tour of Stonyhurst College.