

**Mission Statement for Higher Education Chaplaincy
in the Archdiocese of Southwark
October 2021**

Mission Statement - What we do

The Catholic Chaplains in Higher Education in the Archdiocese of Southwark are the human face of the Catholic faith on campus, wherever they serve. Their presence witnesses to the existence of the wider Catholic community, and its desire to reach out to both staff and students in Higher Education Institutions. Whilst working independently on our campuses we also work collaboratively with Higher Education Chaplains across the diocese and beyond. Recognising the dignity of each person we want to welcome and accompany them as they journey through life, whether they are a volunteer, employed by or studying within the university whether at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Chaplains witness to the joy of the Gospel, whether they are ordained or lay people. Their ministry is rooted in a living relationship with Jesus Christ, embodied in the Catholic Church. As Catholic chaplains we recognise that faith is a gift, given by God and nurtured in a faith community. Where possible we strive to build a Catholic community on campus and connect with local parishes when we can.

Rooted in the Gospels we seek to live out what Jesus taught in the way best suited to our environment, recognising that whilst in similar work, this may look very different depending on our institution. As members of multi-faith chaplaincy teams, we are available for people of all faiths and none in our institutions, and within the Diocese for anyone working or studying in Higher Education. Journeying with staff and students opens the chaplains up to the ongoing journey of transformation, led by the Holy Spirit. With each other and Jesus, we embark on that journey in faith and trust.