

## **DAY VISITS TO MARIAPLIS HOPE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS OVER**

**The new Ecclesial Groups in the Church.** God always remains with his people in different ages. In today's confusing world a new phenomenon has happened inspired by the Holy Spirit in all churches, not only the Catholic Church. Ecclesial groups (about 250) have grown up often inspired by lay people. In the official letter to all Bishops of the Catholic Church about the Ecclesial Groups 15 May 2016 it states these groups are co-essential for the life of the people of the Church. From time to time invitations are made to parishioners to attend them. The Catholic Church explains how the ecclesial groups are a help all people in the Church:

1. **Laity** *First it is necessary to recognise the goodness of the different charisms that give rise to the ecclesial groups between all the faithful, called to make fruitful sacramental grace under the leadership of their legitimate pastors. These charismatic gifts enable the faithful to live the common priesthood of the People of God as part of their day to day existence: "as disciples of Christ, persevering in prayer and praising God they should present themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God". Everywhere on earth they (laity) must bear witness to Christ and give answer to those who seek an account of that hope of eternal life which is in them.*
2. **Ordained Priests** *They also may find through their participation in a charismatic entity both a reminder of their own baptism by which they became sons of God and their own specific mission and vocation.*
3. **Consecrated Life** *They (consecrated people) are located within the charismatic dimension of the Church. Such a charism manifests a "special conformity to Christ, chaste poor and obedient". Members of an Institute of Consecrated Life, with the necessary consent of their proper superiors can find in relation to the new groups an important aid in living their own vocations, and in turn offer "the faithful, joyful and charismatic witness of consecrated life" thus bringing about a reciprocal enrichment.*

One of these new Ecclesial groups that is fully recognised by the Catholic Church is the Focolare Movement.

The Most helpful manifestation of the Focolare Movement is the Mariapolis that takes place in many different countries. Quite a few Leyland parishioners attend in the UK. This year there are three smaller Mariapolis and nearest us is the one at Liverpool Hope University from Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup>pm to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>pm. Day visitors are especially welcome. You will find the programme on the back of this sheet of paper.

If you are coming let Fr. Jonathan know and we will greet you and make you welcome. There is the possibility of bring a picnic lunch or many places locally to eat at good prices. (Fr Jonathan's mobile 07977 469331)

### Programme for the Mariapolis 28 – 31 July 2016

Thursday 28 July '16	3pm	registration
	7pm	Introduction to the Mariapolis
Friday 29 July '16	09.30	Ecumenical Prayer
	10.00	Launchpad: Session all together hosted by Norway
	10.30	Main session Unity and Mercy
	11.15	Coffee
	11.45	Session on experiences related to the theme
	12.30	Services (i.e. Mass or Anglican Eucharist or...)
	14.30	outings / workshops including Reading for Peace Mindfulness Meet and Natter Dance Artists united
	20.00	Barn Dance
Saturday 30 July '16	09.30	Ecumenical Prayer
	10.00	Launchpad: Session all together
	10.30	Main session Unity and Suffering
	11.45	Session on experiences related to the theme
	12.30	Services (i.e. Mass or Anglican Eucharist or...)
	14.30	Big Game
	20.00	House Groups Then Open Mic
Sunday 31 July '16	09.30	Ecumenical Prayer
	? 10.00	Launchpad Session all together hosted by the children
	10.30	Colouring our city
	11.45	Experiences related to the theme
	12.30	Services (i.e. Mass or Anglican Eucharist or...)
	14.30 – 16.00	Mariapolis Celebration

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY  
 CHILDWALL,  
 HOPE PARK CAMPUS,  
 TAGGART AVENUE  
 LIVERPOOL  
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From Leyland the journey time is about 50 minutes down the M6 and M62.