



CHRISTIANITY BOOKLET

2025/2026

SOAS MULTI-FAITH CHAPLAINCY

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A message from the the Christian Chaplains:

Welcome to a new academic year at SOAS! Whether you are arriving on campus for the first time or returning to continue your journey, we welcome you with hearts full of joy and hope.

This year is not just an opportunity for intellectual growth, but also for the flourishing of your whole self—heart, mind, body, and spirit. This is a season to learn, to question, to build lasting friendships, and to discover more deeply who you are and what truly matters to you.

Our hope and prayer for each of you is that this year will be fruitful in every possible way. May you find inspiration in your studies, joy in your community, strength in times of challenge, and a deep sense of purpose in all that you do.

Please know that the chaplaincy is here for you—whether you seek a quiet space to reflect, a listening ear, a time to connect and recharge or simply a moment of peace amid the busyness. All are welcome.

Wishing you a blessed and enriching year ahead.
Rebecca & Oscar

Christianity and the Christian Year


Christianity is fundamentally Good News! The Good News that the God who created the universe loves us and is now restoring everything through his love.

When humanity ignored Him, abandoned Him, betrayed Him or were indifferent to Him, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Through the death of Jesus Christ, we can be reconciled to God. Through his Glorious resurrection and the gift of his Spirit we can live a new life.

The appearance of Jesus Christ, is the event that divides all time between a before and an after, both all over the Western World and also in the individual lives of believers who encounter Christ and welcome him in their lives.

The Christian year celebrates different aspects of Christian Mystery that revolve around this central event: the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Resources Nearby

There are many Christian Churches in the proximity of SOAS.

For a comprehensive list see:

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/local-places-worship>

The nearest Catholic chapel is in the Catholic Chaplaincy of Newman House

<https://www.universitycatholic.net/reception@universitycatholic.net>

The Catholic Church were the Catholic Chaplain is Parish Priest is St Charles Borromeo (15 min walk from SOAS):

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/oglestreet/>

Fr Oscar Ardila, Catholic Chaplain is in Room 363 every Wednesday between 2pm and 3:30pm for food, a chat, questions, discussions, prayers and also in Campus on Friday at 2:15pm in the Multi-faith room 206 of the Brunei Building, for mass, liturgy or prayers.

You are welcome to join us or to contact him at: oa22@soas.ac.uk

Notable dates

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| Advent | The Christian year starts with the season of advent. It looks to the second coming of Christ in glory and invites believers to prepare with joyful expectation to celebrate his first coming in history at Christmas. |
| Advent 2025 | Sunday 30th November 2025 – Wednesday 24th December 2025 |
| Christmas season celebrates the birth and childhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. | Christmas season celebrates the birth and childhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. |
| Christmas 2025 | <p>In many Christians traditions Christmas lasts twelve days: 24th December 2025 - 5th January 2026.</p> <p>Catholics celebrate from Christmas eve to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 24th December 2025- 11th January 2026</p> |
| The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 | From January 18th to January 25th. |

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| Lent | Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate the focal point of the liturgical year: the death of the Lord during Holy Week and his resurrection at Easter. |
| Lent Dates 2026 | Wednesday 18 th Feb 'Ash Wednesday' – Wednesday 1 st April. |
| Holy Week | Holy Week follows closely the events surrounding the passion and death of the Lord. |
| Holy Week 2026 | Sunday 29 th March (Palm Sunday) - Saturday 4 th April (Holy Saturday). |
| Easter | Easter celebrates the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, his glorious ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. |
| Easter Dates 2026 | Sunday 5 th April (Easter Sunday) - Sunday 8 th June (Pentecost Sunday) |

Multi-faith Chaplaincy

Student Advice and Wellbeing

