



CHRISTIAN BOOKLET

2026/2027

SOAS MULTI-FAITH CHAPLAINCY

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A message from the the 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 warmly welcome you with hearts full of hope. A new academic year is more than the beginning of lectures and assignments. It is an opportunity not only for intellectual growth but also for the flourishing of your whole self—heart, mind, body, and spirit. This is a season to discover more deeply who you are, to ask life's important questions, and to reflect on what truly matters.

Our hope and prayer is that this year will be one of growth in every sense. May you find inspiration in your studies, encouragement in your friendships, strength in times of challenge, and a deep sense of purpose in all that you do.

The Chaplaincy is here for you, whatever your faith, beliefs, or worldview. We offer a welcoming space where you can explore faith, reflect on life's deeper questions, seek meaning and purpose, and engage in conversations that inspire hope, compassion, and the pursuit of justice.

Whether you are looking for a quiet place to pause and reflect, a listening ear, an opportunity to connect with others, or simply a moment of peace amid the busyness of university life, you are always welcome here. We look forward to walking alongside you throughout the year and supporting you as you learn, grow, and discover the gifts you have to share with the world. All are welcome.

Wishing you a blessed, joyful, and enriching academic 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 (where Father Oscar 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 and prayers. He is also on Campus on Fridays at 2:15pm in the Multi-faith room B206 of the Brunei Gallery, for Mass, liturgy or prayers.

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

Notable dates

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 2026	Sunday 29th November 2026 – Friday 25th December 2026.
Christmas	Christmas season celebrates the birth and childhood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Christmas 2026	In many Christian traditions Christmas lasts twelve days: 24th December 2026 - 5th January 2027. Catholics celebrate from Christmas Eve to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord from 24th December 2026 - 11th January 2027.
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2027	From January 18th to January 25th 2027.

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 2027	Wednesday 10th Feb 'Ash Wednesday' – Thursday 25th March 2027.
Holy Week	Holy Week follows closely the events surrounding the passion and death of the Lord.
Holy Week 2027	Sunday 21st March (Palm Sunday) - Saturday 27th March 2027 (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 2027	Sunday 28th March (Easter Sunday) - Sunday 16th May 2027 (Pentecost Sunday).

Multi-faith Chaplaincy

Student Advice and Wellbeing

