

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday Lunchtime (from 1 pm) in the Chaplain's Office

(Portland Building, West End, Top Floor)

An hour's discussion each week on a topical issue. This week

PRISONS

- houses of correction, or refuse disposal units?

This society is protesting over dangerous and anti-social characters who emerge from prison to live amongst potential further victims. The only answer seems to be longer, or even permanent, segregation of offenders.

At the same time, the act of imprisonment confers a stigma preventing convicts from re-entering a law-abiding community: there are moves to grant public access to police lists of convicts, which would re-inforce this stigma.

- Is our prison system geared towards a hoped-for rehabilitation of those convicted of crime? Or is it simply to removed them from circulation?
- Who could rehabilitate convicts? Can this work be recruited and paid-for, like that of teachers and nurses? Does it require something more messianic?
- What degree of expense and waste are we prepared to tolerate in preserving a high proportion of the population At Her Majesty's Pleasure?

Tea/coffee provided. Bring a sandwich, and discuss these ideas for an hour, and meet some new people!

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