

No one looks forward to a stay in hospital, but if it becomes necessary, it is important that you are well cared for. Part of that good care is the Hospital Chaplaincy Service; a multi-faith department whose role is to provide for the spiritual, pastoral and religious needs of patients and their relatives.

It is well recognised that not everyone is a church-goer or necessarily wants religious services, but that the very act of being taken into hospital can disturb our sense of self and normality.

Chaplains offer a friendly face, a listening ear, a chance to talk through thoughts and concerns, prayer, religious advice, and comfort and the support of the Sacraments. Everything is held in confidence.

Chaplains visit the wards during the week and provide an 'on-call' service in case of emergency.

On admission to hospital please ensure that your religion is registered and confirm that this information may be passed to the RC Chaplain.

+ If you would like a chaplain to visit please ask ward staff to contact the appropriate chaplain.

+ If your relative is admitted to hospital please notify the chaplain.

+ If you let us know you're there, we can be there for you.

## The Sacrament of the Sick

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick offers Christ's healing and strength to the elderly, anyone who has a life-threatening illness or is facing an operation.

If you know that you are being admitted to hospital it is in order for you to contact your parish priest to make arrangements to receive the Sacrament before your admission. He may offer to anoint you during a weekday Mass, at home with your family, or privately at a convenient place and time. Whatever you choose it is a rich opportunity to allow your parish community to support you in your sickness and suffering.

If you are admitted to hospital in an emergency, it is still possible to call on your priest to visit and administer the Sacrament, or you can ask ward staff to contact the Roman Catholic chaplain at the hospital who will be pleased to visit and arrange for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and any other prayerful and sacramental support that may assist you through your hospital stay.



## How to contact the RC Chaplain

Contact details for all Diocese of Westminster Healthcare Chaplains, and hospitals within the diocese are posted in the directory on the diocesan [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk).

They are also listed in the Westminster Year Book under Chaplaincies: Hospitals and Hospice. Details of your local hospital chaplain will often be noted in the parish newsletter or posted at the back of church.

If you are having difficulty contacting the hospital chaplain, your parish priest will be able to help you.

Diocese of Westminster Healthcare Chaplains

The Cardinal's Adviser for Healthcare Chaplaincy can be contacted at 81 St Charles Square, London W10 6EB

Telephone: 020 8960 2609  
[www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk)

Religion: .....

Parish/Church: .....

Church Address: .....

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Church Tel: .....

Signed: .....

Diocese of Westminster Healthcare Chaplains

## Carry this card in your wallet

Below is a small card which you can keep in your wallet or handbag. It is intended to provide information only in the case of your arriving at hospital unconscious and in an emergency, with no one to speak for your religious needs. We hope that it will never have to be used, but to carry it may offer reassurance.

### TO THE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

I, .....

In accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and any subsequent documentation, give Explicit Consent that the details of my religious affiliation (shown on the reverse) are passed to the Hospital Chaplaincy department and are to be forwarded on to the relevant religious leader of my church or parish.

### Last but not least . . .

Please pray for all who are patients in our hospitals, for their families, and for the staff, volunteers and chaplains who care for them.

### Prayer for the Sick

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ.  
Rest your weary ones.  
Bless your dying ones.  
Soothe your suffering ones.  
Pity your afflicted ones.  
Shield your joyous ones.  
And for all your love's sake.  
Amen.

