

## PROFILES

**Name:** Jorge Luís Cortin

**Country of origin:** Colombia

**Work:** Employee in a cleaning company.

**Parish:** St Anne's, Vauxhall. Member of the Latin American Chaplaincy prayer group.

**Date of arrival:** 1994. I came because of the difficult political and economic situation in our country and also difficulties getting work. I wanted to leave to protect my life. The hardest thing about England at first was the language and then the customs, which are not the same as ours. On the other hand, what I appreciated was that here you can live in peace.

**Faith journey in England:** In my home country and continent, people really live the Catholic faith. From childhood, our parents teach us to love God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and Our Lady above all things. I come from a very Catholic place and family and this was a great help to me when I arrived in England. God gave me the opportunity to come here, and to have experiences which helped form me spiritually. When I arrived here, my spiritual values gave me the strength to carry on. My faith gave me confidence that the Lord would help me and protect me, above all my health.

I really thank God for this, and for giving me the opportunity, imperfect and a sinner though I am, to grow daily closer to him through reading his Word and I thank God for the priests he has sent to the chaplaincy here. I have seen the chaplaincy grow, extend to other churches in London. There is a prayer group that is 10 years old now. We are growing familiar with English Catholics through the priests in the chaplaincy, who speak both English and Spanish and we are also joining in with other prayer groups such as the prayer groups at Westminster Cathedral, where there are Spanish-speaking priests too. We are also participating more now in joint celebrations such as the international Mass last year in Westminster Cathedral, or the Mass in Soho, which is also a church for the English and the Chinese. We are integrating and sharing our experiences much more and we wish to do this more and more for the good of the Church. May we always be close to Our Lady, who is our mother and intercessor, who wants faith in Jesus to remain and last forever.